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Gillis names two assistant GMs

CANUCKS The Vancouver Canucks filled their vacant Assistant General Manager position yesterday by way of promotion.

GM Mike Gillis assigned Lorne Henning and Lawrence Gillman the task of replacing former assistant GM Steve Tambellini, who joined the Edmonton Oilers at the end of July.

Henning will work with Gillis on player evaluations, trades and free agent signings. Gillman, who was hired in May, will now oversee the Canucks' hockey operations' budget, contract negotiations, and salary arbitration in addition to monitoring the franchise's salary cap.

SCOTT RINTOUL/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

RAFE ARNOLT/METRO VANCOUVER

T.J. Etibako, centre, leaves B.C. Supreme Court with his girlfriend, left, and sister, yesterday. T.J.'s younger brother, Bolingo, testified in the arson trial of Nathan Fry. Four members of the Etibako family and Bolingo's girlfriend were killed in a fire in 2006.

Tearful testimony

Blaze survivor breaks down on the stand

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The only survivor of a deadly arson broke down on the stand and had to be escorted, sobbing from the room after describing waking in hospital to see the brother he thought had died in the fire.

Bolingo Etibako, 19, testified yesterday at the murder trial of Nathan Fry, a former acquaintance and the alleged arsonist in the 2006 fire that killed Etibako's mother, three younger siblings and his girlfriend.

Etibako said Fry had been to the East Vancouver home twice and once spent the night in the room where his eight-year-old brother, Stephane, died.

He told the jury that on the fatal night he woke up in the basement where he and his girlfriend, Ashley Singh, were sleeping and realized the house was on fire.

"I tried opening the back door but both of my hands were burning," Etibako said.

"I was desperately trying to get out. Ashley fell and I couldn't help her because my hands were burned. I didn't have any skin."

"Ashley fell and I couldn't help her because my hands were burned. I didn't have any skin."
Bolingo Etibako

Singh's mother cried while Etibako described jumping, on fire, out the kitchen window and running across the street yelling, "My family's inside that house!"

He said he was put in an ambulance and told paramedics the names of all the people he believed to be trapped inside. Seconds later the home exploded and Etibako fainted.

"I woke up in the hospital and there was my brother with me," he said.

Then dropped his head into his lap and heaved with sobs until being escorted from the room.

T.J. Etibako had been out of the house that night.

Prosecutors allege Fry set fire to the home in retaliation for Etibako telling police Fry was responsible for two stabbings.

He was acquitted on those charges.

Current charges

- Bolingo Etibako was convicted earlier this year for three bank robberies and has 20 days left in his sentence.

Tories turf top official

Election 2008

The man who was the victim of a serious gaffe that cost the Conservative Party its communications director thinks the prime minister went too far in trying to minimize the damage.

"I certainly wouldn't want to be the reason for anyone losing their job or anything like that," Jim Davis of Bridgewater, N.S., said yesterday. Davis, 60, called on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to reconsider his decision to suspend party spokesperson Ryan Sparrow for the rest of the campaign.

"I certainly wouldn't want to be the reason for anyone losing their job or anything like that."
Jim Davis

Sparrow was sidelined for suggesting that Davis, whose son Cpl. Paul Davis died in Afghanistan, criticized Harper's commitment to withdraw Canadian troops in 2011 because he is a Liberal supporter.

"Somebody in our war room sent out an inappropriate e-mail questioning the motivation of a father of a deceased Canadian soldier who questioned our policy in Afghanistan," Harper said at a campaign event at a winery in St-Eustache, Que. "That individual has been suspended from the campaign. He has apologized to the individual in question."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

World pg 10

U.S. pauses to remember 9-11 attack

Weekend pgs 16-24

Movie and music news you can use

Election 2008 pg 8

- **Grit carbon tax could boost separatists: PM**
- **Web helps Greens**
- **Big polluters in NDP crosshairs**
- **Our national wrap-up**

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UBC law school makes Maclean's top 5
UBC has been rated as one of Canada's top five law schools by Maclean's Magazine for the second year. The rankings put UBC in fourth spot and the University of Victoria in fifth. U of T was first. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

PNE Fright Nights

Fright Nights returns to the PNE on Oct. 16 until Nov. 1. The pre-Halloween event includes a cast of "scarers" that surprise people as they make it out of five new haunted houses or fly through the dark on 13 Playland rides.
METRO VANCOUVER

DONALD WEBER/GETTY IMAGES

Brian Johnson, left, Angus Young and the rest of AC/DC will play GM Place on Nov. 28.

AC/DC to power city for one night

CONCERT AC/DC are coming to Vancouver on Nov. 28 to play GM Place.

The Anglo-Australian rockers announced yesterday a 24-date North American leg of their Black Ice World Tour that starts on Oct. 28 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The worldwide trek follows closely behind the Oct. 20 release of Black Ice, the band's first album in eight years, which will be sold exclusively in Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores and on the band's website, acdc.com.

The first single, Rock-'n'Roll Train, rocketed 10 places to No. 5 on Billboard's latest Mainstream Rock chart.

Tickets for the North American dates will go on sale during the weekend of Sept. 20 via Ticketmaster and acdc.com.

Following the North American run, AC/DC will visit South America, Europe and Asia, with dates to be announced. REUTERS

1 of 2
- The only other Canadian stop is in Toronto on Nov. 7.

Riding for music therapy

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

CHARITY Musician Craig Northey and comedian Russell Peters are in Richmond tomorrow to make sweet music out of the rumble of more than 80 motorcycles.

They're just two of the celebrities taking part in the seventh annual Vancouver-to-Whistler Canadian Music Therapy Ride.

The charity event supports music therapy programs for children and others in need through various charities in the Lower Mainland and elsewhere in Canada.

Northey, singer for The New Odds, said he believes music can make a difference in people's lives.

Craig Northey

"Anyone who is very ill can benefit from music therapy or it helps youth get a leg up in life," Northey said, adding this is his second time participating in the ride.

"The event is a lot of fun," he said. "Two years ago me and (Nickelback bassist) Mike Kroeger ended up chatting. You get to know people, you get to know what their life is like."

Organizer Patrick Zullinov said the star power the event attracts has helped raise more than $200,000 while bringing together members of the music industry.

"I think it's cool that all these radio and TV stations that are fighting for ratings can get together for this one effort," he said.

Woman dies in fire

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A string of suspicious blazes in a quiet residential Vancouver neighbourhood resulted in a house fire and the death of a 68-year-old woman yesterday.

A witness spotted a group of young people at the site of one of five fires that started around 5:15 a.m. and spanned six blocks between Killarney and Fraserview, said Vancouver Const. Tim Fanning.

The suspicious fires began with a portable toilet at 50th Avenue and Kerr Street. Other fires included an under-construction house in the 2800 block of East 54th Avenue and a hedge in the 6900 block of Lancaster Street.

"We need the people that may know what happened early this morning to come forward and tell us what happened," Fanning said. "I'm sure it's going to weigh heavy on their conscience."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver police search the alley behind a house in the 2700 block of 55th Avenue yesterday after one of five suspicious fires resulted in the death of a 68-year-old woman.

Three people, a 39-year-old man, his 35-year-old wife and 68-year-old mother, were in the house at 2781 55th Ave. Fanning said the fire started at the back of the house.

Firefighters carried the mother from the house and attempted to resuscitate her. She died later in hospital.

The man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. His wife was unharmed.

Neighbour Dave Tse watched from the curb as firefighters carried the woman from the house.

Tse was concerned for the safety of his family.

"I have two kids to worry about … you've got to sleep with one eye open."

Cancer Run for the Cure

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Wendy Tse, centre, hands out buttons and cards to promote the CIBC Run for the Cure at Robson Street and Burrard Street yesterday. The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation walk and run takes place Oct. 5. For more information on how to sign up go to cbcf.org.

News in brief

DOWNGRADED The family of a woman stabbed to death in her Burnaby apartment said yesterday that the Crown downgraded her killer's sentence to manslaughter because she was an escort. The Crown said the charges were changed because the accused, Aaron Hickey, was drunk at the time of Tammy Murray's death, and because she had antagonized him.

COUNTERFEIT A Langley store has been busted for selling fake Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Gucci merchandise and other counterfeited items, RCMP announced yesterday. Operators at the English Bay Gallery are facing numerous charges.

RATES REDUCED Changing market conditions have allowed Terasen Gas to lower its rates by 15 per cent starting in October, news1130.com reports. The reduction will be in effect for three months.

FATALITY A 65-year-old woman is dead after being hit by a vehicle at a busy Burnaby intersection yesterday. Cpl. Alexandra Mulvihill said the woman was crossing the street at an unmarked crosswalk.

CLIMATE CHEQUES About 18,000 climate action dividend cheques worth about $1.8 million were sent to people who no longer live in B.C., cknw.com reports. Canada Revenue Agency is asking recipients to return the money.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Farmers' families get financial help

MUSHROOMS A trust fund has been established to accept donations for the families of the three workers who died at a Langley mushroom farm.

Another two workers remain in hospital in critical condition.

The five men are fathers to 13 children, all under age 10, and their families are struggling to pay for their funerals and other bills.

The Langley Farmworker's Fund was initiated by the B.C. Federation of Labour at Community Savings Credit Union.

The investigation into the deaths continues, with investigators saying a pipe carrying a compost mixture appears to have burst and released deadly gases.

Man arrested after church theft

ROBBERY A Surrey man has been arrested in relation to a robbery at a Greek Orthodox Church.

Conrad Ferguson, 39, was arrested after more than $18,000 worth of religious articles were stolen on the weekend.

Ferguson has been charged with breaking and entering and possession of stolen property. The stolen items include a baptismal font, three chalices and a gold processional cross.

Most of the items are still missing. METRO VANCOUVER

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Bed bugs infiltrating more homes
Bed bugs complaints in Vancouver have doubled every year since 2003, and exterminators say no building is safe anymore. **NEWS1130.COM**

Carr aims for Centre

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Green party Deputy Leader Adriane Carr files her nomination papers downtown yesterday in the riding of Vancouver Centre.

Vancouver Centre is the Green party's strongest chance for winning a breakthrough seat in October's election, said deputy leader Adriane Carr yesterday.

"Vancouver Centre is ripe for turning Green," said Carr, who hopes to pluck the riding from Liberal MP Hedy Fry. Tory Lorne Mayencourt and NDP Michael Byers are also vying for the seat.

Carr, formerly leader of the provincial Greens, said Vancouver Centre is the party's best shot.

"A poll that was released to (Green party Leader) Elizabeth (May) by John Reynolds of the Conservatives last year – they were polling for Lorne Mayencourt – found me in second place," said Carr, before filing her nomination papers.

Other seats where the Greens hope to breakthrough include Elizabeth May's riding of Central Nova; North Vancouver; and Liberal-turned-Green MP Blair Wilson's riding of West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast.

"We recognize that a breakthrough, one, two, a handful of seats is going to be fabulous."

News in brief

ACCIDENTS Preventable bus collisions in the Lower Mainland have gone up 63 per cent in the past four years, a Coast Mountain Bus Company safety report found. Part of the problem is that many routes are being driven by new drivers who have to navigate through construction zones.

FIRE A small electrical fire broke out on top of a crane at a False Creek construction site yesterday, news1130.com reports. Vancouver Fire Capt. Gabe Roder said it was put out with fire extinguishers and the two crane operators are being treated for smoke inhalation.

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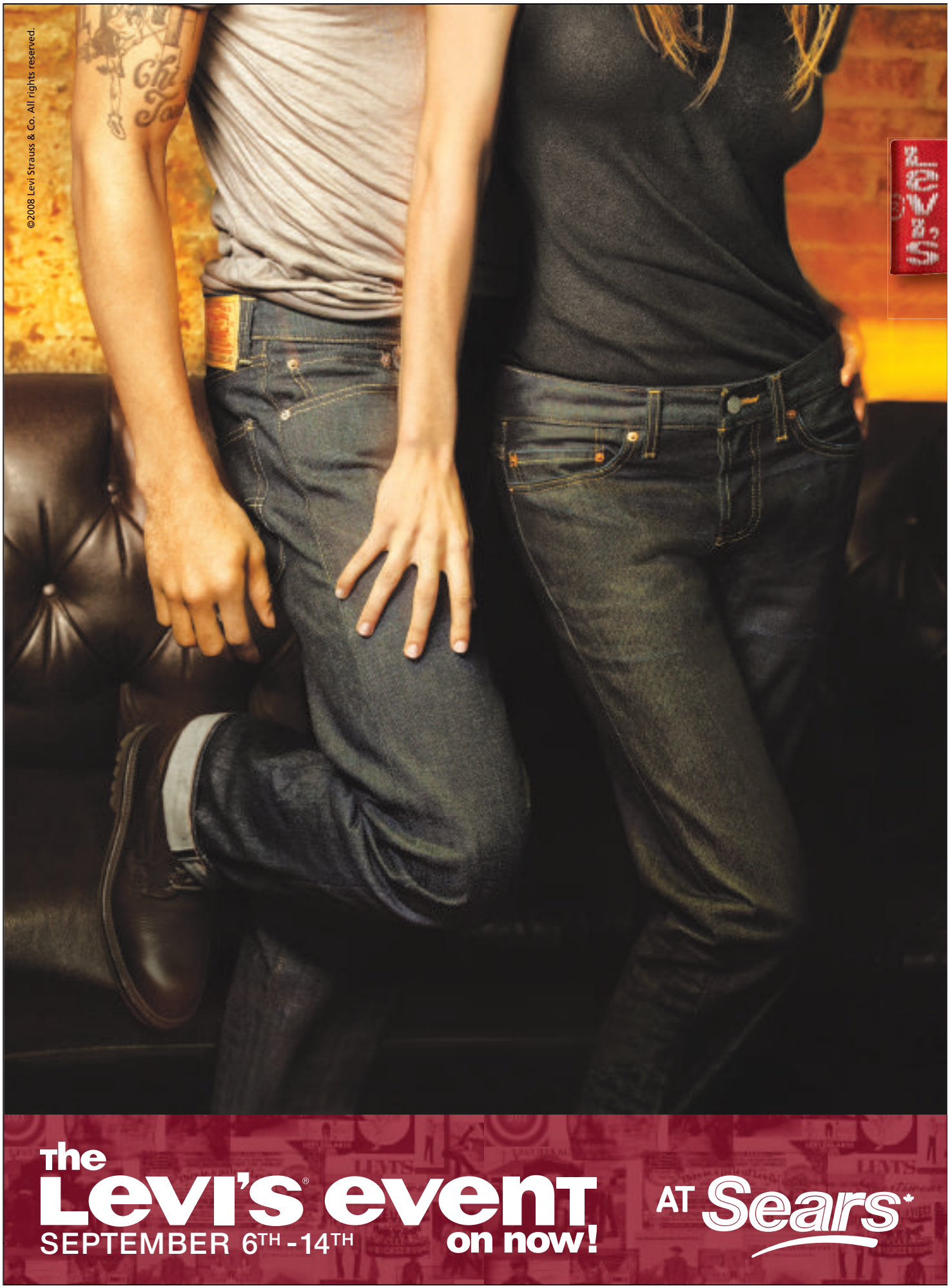
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Police must tailor approach to youth

Police interrogators must tailor their approach to each young offender when explaining their rights, by taking into account factors that may affect their understanding such as learning disabilities, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

"I decided to take a stance that clearly reflects my convictions"

Montreal's archbishop Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, right, speaking about his decision to renounce his Order of Canada.

Abortion

Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte is protesting abortion rights crusader Henry Morgentaler's appointment to the Order of Canada. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Outbreak tests 'inexcusable'

Doctor bashes long delays

When the first hints of a listeria outbreak emerged from a Toronto nursing home in mid-July, it took more than three weeks for health officials to get test results from labs in Ottawa and Winnipeg.

That is far too long, microbiology experts now concede, delaying the response of public health officials and allowing the spread of disease to continue. And it's much longer than U.S. officials take to identify food-borne health risks and tell the public.

"It is inexcusable to wait that number of days in order to get an answer back," says Dr. Don Low, medical director of Ontario's provincial lab in Toronto, which was unequipped to handle such testing five years after the SARS outbreak. "The (Ontario) public health lab should be doing it. That has to change."

"It is inexcusable to wait that number of days."

Dr. Don Low

Samples are sent to a Health Canada lab in Ottawa, then to Winnipeg's national microbiology lab, causing delays in an outbreak investigation

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary **Egg toss**

ROBIN KUNISKI FOR METRO CANADA

Gabriel Didiano, a first-year architectural student from the University of Calgary, drops a specially designed egg holder from four floors up during the Faculty of Environmental Design's annual Egg Drop contest.

Taser report acquired

POLICIES The RCMP did not use "due diligence" when it approved the Taser stun gun for use as a less-than-lethal weapon by its officers, a hard-hitting independent review concludes.

The report was ordered by RCMP commissioner Bill Elliott following the uproar over the death last October of a Polish immigrant shot by a Taser weapon by RCMP at the Vancouver airport.

Submitted in June to Elliott but not made public, the review says the RCMP relied too much on the advice of the Taser's American manufacturer in developing its policies and did not consult widely enough with medical and mental health experts about its impact on people.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reasons for use

- The report, obtained yesterday under Access to Information, slams the use by policy officers of the term "excited delirium" to describe combative, resistant suspects, saying it is an excuse to justify firing the stun gun's charge.

News in brief

KFC MARRIAGE Two animal-rights activists got married yesterday at a Toronto Kentucky Fried Chicken. After saying their vows, bride Alex Bury and groom Jack Norris served a new KFC vegetarian sandwich to celebrate the partnership with PETA forged back in June.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

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(4) Taxes are extra. © 2008 Koodo Mobile.

Poll puts Tories on top

A Nanos Research poll yesterday said voters backed the Conservatives at 37 per cent, the Liberals at 32 per cent, and the NDP at 13 per cent. Nanos interviewed 978 decided voters, a sample size that carries a 3.1-point margin of error. REUTERS

Election 2008

Tax threatens unity: Harper

PM says Liberal carbon duty would lead to 'big recession,' turmoil

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has revived Canada's unity debate with a stark warning that the Liberals' proposed carbon tax would plunge the country into a "big recession," creating economic turmoil that would give life to Quebec's separatist movement.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion quickly rejected the incendiary charge yesterday, firing back with the claim that while he was fighting to keep the country intact, Harper was fuelling regional divisions.

"While he was busy talking about building firewalls in the West, I was fighting to keep my country together, because I love Canada," said Dion, who in 1999 helped craft legislation designed to ensure separatists could not break up the country on the basis of a loosely worded referendum question.

"I do not need any lessons from Stephen Harper on fighting for the national unity of my country," Dion said.

"I do not need any lessons from Stephen Harper on fighting for the national unity of my country."
Stéphane Dion

The "firewall" reference stems from a letter written by Harper when he was president of the National Citizens Coalition calling on Alberta to assume greater powers in order to shelter it from punitive measures from Ottawa.

Harper's revival of the unity fight started yesterday morning when he told a Montreal audience of young business leaders that the Liberals' carbon tax would "plunge Canada into recession."

"By undermining the economy and re-centralizing money and power in Ottawa, it can only undermine the progress that we have been making on national unity," Harper told the audience.

He resurrected the spectre of regional divisions as he painted the Liberals' greenhouse gas strategy as a costly folly, whose impacts will reach far beyond the country's economy. TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

NDP

Layton plans cap-and-trade

ENVIRONMENT The New Democratic Party would implement a cap-and-trade system to cut 80 per cent of greenhouse gases by 2050 by punishing big polluters, leader Jack Layton said.

Jack Layton

The NDP plan for the environment would also put a halt to any further tarsand development in Alberta because "it is the largest environmental challenge facing Canada," Layton told a rally yesterday in the heart of Montreal.

Layton took aim at large-scale emitters and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion yesterday, criticizing Dion for the first time since the election campaign began. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Internet

Online surge boosted May

TECHNOLOGY Green Leader Elizabeth May owes new technology, which boosted her into the upcoming TV debates, according to political scientist Chanchal Bhattacharya.

The Earth moved in Canada and the ground will never be the same, he argues, as a result of the abrupt about-face of network executives.

"There's been a fundamental change in Canadian politics, and the question is when the parties will learn to adapt," he says. "They'd better, because it's not something they can control. Politics is far less controllable, including by the news media (due to the Internet)." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion signs Tyra Lewis' cast yesterday at a rally at the Thunder Bay airport.

N.B. premier feels kinship with Dion

SUPPORT Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion received the backing of New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham yesterday, though the Liberal premier's endorsement of Dion's Green Shift plan was more nuanced.

"I feel a kinship to Stéphane Dion — I know what it's like to be underestimated," Graham said.

The premier was often accused of being a weak and ineffective leader of the provincial Liberals before he defeated former Conservative premier Bernard Lord in 2006.

Despite a rocky start and poor early showing in opinion polls, Dion is striking an upbeat pose as the election campaign gets going in earnest.

His aircraft, a refurbished 29-year-old Boeing 737 from Air Inuit, is finally up and running.

Dion feels he is succeeding in getting out his messages on the environment, women's issues, food safety, gun control and the economy. Meanwhile, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper has been busy with rearguard actions on Green party Leader Elizabeth May's participation in the leaders' debate, the now-withdrawn online ad showing a puffin pooping on Dion's shoulder, and the Afghanistan military mission. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

VOTING A Facebook group is trying to pair up Canadians willing to swap votes in the federal election to keep the Conservatives from winning seats in tight ridings. About 280 people have become members of the "Anti-Harper Vote Swap Canada" group since it was created on Wednesday. Organizer Mat Savelli says it's a formalized way of strategic voting. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

32 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

From Metro newsrooms across the country...

ElectionTourCanada

Halifax

The ruling party was left scrambling this week when Tory hopeful Rosamond Luke — fined in 2006 for uttering threats — withdrew in a hurry. Interested in running in this N-dipper stronghold? Prime Minister Stephen Harper comes to Halifax this morning, so bring your resume — and your clean criminal record. Green giant Elizabeth May, campaigning against Bluenose political heavyweight Peter MacKay, celebrated her invite to the federal leaders' debate in Pictou, N.S. Will those national headlines help her win her uphill battle in Central Nova? Only time will tell.

Montreal

Every election, it's the same story. Does the Bloc and its leader, Gilles Duceppe, have a place in Ottawa? This time, the attacks weren't coming from the other parties, but from the separatist family. Ex-Parti Québécois minister Jacques Brassard said Wednesday that the Bloc leans too much to the left, that the party wasn't talking enough about sovereignty and that it was becoming a clone of the NDP. "The Bloc is there to defend the ideas and requests of Quebecers, regardless of the left and right ideologies," Duceppe said.

Ottawa

The major parties used Ottawa as a launch pad for the 2008 federal election race. Travel plans were at the fore as Prime Minister Stephen Harper boarded a plane for Quebec City and later jetted to Vancouver. Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion wasn't travelling first class to open the campaign as the party waited too long to procure a plane. Eventually, the Liberals were able to find a 30-year-old Boeing 737, but not before Dion boarded a bus to visit Ottawa South. NDP Leader Jack Layton opened his campaign against the backdrop of Parliament Hill by announcing he wanted to take Harper's portfolio as prime minister. He then flew to Calgary to campaign in the prime minister's riding. Green Leader Elizabeth May's visit to the Ottawa Mission formed the basis for her policy on eliminating poverty.

Toronto

Jobs and money. Money and jobs. They are what makes a political campaign go round. Both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion got an earful during the opening week on the hustings in the GTA. Mississauga, Ont., Mayor "Hurricane" Hazel McCallion lashed out at both leaders, demanding that they do more to help with infrastructure in Canadian cities. On the job front, Harper said "We can't guarantee your jobs" when asked about 500 more job cuts at the Ford plant in Oakville, Ont.

Calgary

It has been a fairly quiet week on Calgary's federal election front as a majority of the city's comfortable Conservative MPs left town to lend a hand in other ridings across the country with much more at stake. On Tuesday, though, University of Calgary political scientist Barry Cooper said the environment had supplanted health care as Canadians' top issue and called them both "bogus" issues.

Edmonton

The stranglehold the federal Conservatives have on Alberta means few visits from national leaders but Edmonton did have a close encounter with one of the party honchos this week. NDP Leader Jack Layton was in the 780 area code briefly on Monday as his campaign plane flew past the Alberta capital headed for the Northwest Territories. Layton did get a little closer to Fort McMurray, Alta., though, as his NDPlane dipped to 1,500 metres to view the effect giant oilsands developments have had on the northern landscape.

Vancouver

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Jack Layton both visited Vancouver on Monday, the first full day of campaigning — strong evidence that the key to 24 Sussex Drive may lie in B.C. In a carefully staged effort to woo middle-class and ethnic voters, Harper spoke to reporters from the home of Richmond resident Edwin Huang. He fed Cheerios to Huang's infant son and touted the Tories' $1,200 a year taxable benefit to parents of young children. Later in the day, Layton told about 250 supporters in MP David Emerson's riding that an NDP government would ban MPs from floor-crossing like Emerson did. Outside, a small but vocal group of young Liberals shouted tirelessly that "a vote for the NDP is a vote for Harper," leading to a Wild West-style shoutdown with Layton supporters.

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Lucky break allowed dinosaurs to rule Earth: Study
Some 200 million years ago, dinosaurs survived some type of planetary calamity, like climate change, to beat out a group of reptiles called crurotarsans for the right to rule the Earth, scientists said. REUTERS

World/Business

Palin stirs passion in Hollywood Republicans

POLITICS Vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin represents many things Hollywood liberals love to hate, from her opposition to gay marriage to her support for gun rights.

However, she possesses two key qualities they admire – star appeal and a great script.

Accordingly, Hollywood Republicans – often overshadowed by their left-leaning peers – are seeking to capitalize on Palin's celebrity to generate support in a town well-known for its lavish Democratic fundraisers and events.

"She's certainly got star appeal and is the kind of candidate that is made for Hollywood. I offered to throw her a fundraiser myself," said MGM chief Harry Sloan, one of Hollywood's most vocal Republicans. REUTERS

Tough on Russia

- In her first major interview with ABC News yesterday, Sarah Palin took a hard line on Russian aggression in Georgia, saying the U.S. would be bound to defend Georgia if it joined NATO.

NASA rocket passes initial review

SPACE NASA Wednesday cleared the launch system being developed to replace the space shuttle for a detailed design review, confident that the new Ares rocket will meet all technical, safety and budget requirements. REUTERS

U.S. remembers Sept. 11

In a ceremony outside the Pentagon, President George W. Bush yesterday dedicated the first major Sept. 11 memorial on the seventh anniversary of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

To the accompaniment of choral music, military members in dress uniform unveiled the 184 granite-and-steel benches in the memorial park that represent each of the victims killed by the al-Qaida attack on the Pentagon.

The memorial, by designers Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman, also features maple trees and light pools in a park of gravel.

PETER FOLEY/REUTERS

Cazzandra Peterson tosses a rose into the reflecting pool in Ground Zero during the Seventh Anniversary Sept. 11 Commemoration Ceremony in New York.

The Pentagon attack took place at 9:37 a.m., when American Airlines Flight 77 from Washington smashed into the walls of the military headquarters. The crash killed 125 people in the Pentagon, along with 59 people on the plane and five hijackers.

In a park near the site of the World Trade Center attacks in New York, where more than 2,700 were killed, relatives of the dead yesterday held up portraits of their loved ones. REUTERS

9/11 ceasefire

- John McCain and Barack Obama stopped their political skirmishing yesterday to come together at the site of the World Trade Center attacks in New York, where they greeted police and firefighters and later dropped roses into a flower-covered memorial pool.

Karzai backs U.S. on Pakistan, NATO refrains

TERRORISM Afghan President Hamid Karzai has backed a proposed U.S. strategy secretly approved by President George W. Bush in July to hit al-Qaida and Taliban militants in neighbouring Pakistan, but NATO said it would not join any cross-border U.S. raids.

Pakistan's army chief General Ashfaq Kayani has said his country would not allow foreign troops to conduct operations on its soil without express consent, warning that Pakistan's sovereignty would be defended "at all cost." REUTERS

News in brief

ISRAEL Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said yesterday he would resign soon after his party chooses a new leader next week. Olmert has been caught in several scandals and may face charges. REUTERS

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Business

Housing prices slow for sixth month in a row

The increase in the price of a new house slowed in July for the sixth month in a row, mostly because of a softening market in western Canada.

Statistics Canada says selling prices for new houses were up 2.7 per cent year-over-year in July, slower than the 3.5 per cent June increase.

Prices rose the fastest in Regina, where the cost of a new house skyrocketed 29.6 per cent, though that was down from a 34 per cent April record increase.

Meanwhile, buyers in Newfoundland and Labrador faced a fourth consecutive price increase of 24.3 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CAW questions timing of GM deal

VOTE Top CAW officials said yesterday the Conservative government steered General Motors into a late deal and disclosure of a major investment hoping to boost its election fortunes in southern Ontario now reeling from manufacturing job losses. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

TRADE Canada's trade surplus narrowed more than expected in July to $4.85 billion, Statistics Canada said, helping set the stage for weak economic growth numbers. REUTERS

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1190 Homer Street, Suite 250
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Local:
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca
Distribution Supervisor, George Acimovic
Marketing Manager, Olga Edwards
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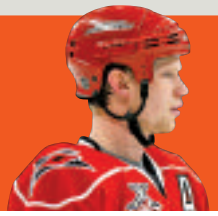
Colts release recently arrested Johnson

The Indianapolis Colts waived defensive tackle Ed Johnson yesterday following his arrest early Wednesday morning. Johnson was pulled over just after midnight in Hamilton County, Ind., and charged with speeding and possession of marijuana. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Staal inks $57.75M extension

The Carolina Hurricanes signed centre Eric Staal, left, to a seven-year, $57.75 million contract extension yesterday. The deal begins with the 2009-10 NHL season and extends through the 2015-16 season, paying Staal an average of $8.25 million per season. A two-time All-Star, the 23-year-old Staal tallied 38 goals and 82 points last season.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Magic's Garrity retires from NBA

NBA Orlando Magic forward Pat Garrity announced his retirement from the NBA yesterday.

Garrity, the 19th overall pick of the Milwaukee Bucks in the 1998 draft, logged 7.3 points and 2.6 rebounds throughout his 10- year career. The three-point specialist was a career 39.8-percent shooter from behind the arc. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Garrity

B.C. Sports in brief

NHL Vancouver Canucks' Prospects Camp opens today with 22 players reporting for medicals and testing at GM Place. The prospects will practice at UBC's Thunderbird Arena this weekend before flying to Alberta for a pair of scrimmages against prospects from the Flames and Oilers. The Canucks main camp opens next Friday in Vancouver with on-ice sessions in Whistler.

AHL Former NHLer Jay Wells has been hired as the assistant coach of the Manitoba Moose, the Canucks' top farm team. Wells played twenty seasons in the NHL and was briefly teammates with Moose head coach Scott Arniel in Buffalo.
SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

Jays hang on to beat Sox

Toronto stays hot thanks to a solid starting performance by Marcum

Blue Jays 6 White Sox 4

MLB Lyle Overbay and Scott Rolen each drove in two runs, as the Toronto Blue Jays bested the Chicago White Sox 6-4 last night, in the finale of a four-game set from U.S. Cellular Field.

Marco Scutaro finished 3-for-4 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored for the Blue Jays, who have won 11 of their last 12 games.

Shaun Marcum (9-6) gave up two runs on five hits with six strikeouts and one walk over 7⅓ innings to get the win. B.J. Ryan struck out the side in the ninth to notch his 29th save.

Jim Thome clubbed a two-run homer for Chicago, which has dropped four of its last five contests. Jermaine Dye added a two-run double for the White Sox, who own a one-game lead over Minnesota for the top spot in the AL Central. The Twins fell to the Royals, 3-2, in 10 innings earlier Thursday.

Gavin Floyd (15-7) allowed four runs on seven hits in 7⅓ innings to take the loss, snapping his career-best five-game winning streak. He had been unbeaten in nine starts since a July 19 setback to Kansas City.

The Blue Jays broke open the scoreless duel with a six-run surge in the eighth. Travis Snider got things started with a leadoff double and Brad Wilkerson came on as a pinch-runner. After Joe Inglett sacrificed the runner to third, Scutaro lined a single to right to put the visitors on the board.

Floyd was then lifted from the game after consecutive hits by Alex Rios and Vernon Wells loaded the bases. Matt Thornton took over on the mound and fanned Adam Lind before Overbay smacked a two-run single to center. Ehren Wasserman entered the game with men on the corners and promptly served up an RBI double to Rod Barajas. Rolen capped the outburst with a two-run single.

The White Sox came back with a four-spot in their half of the eighth. Dye ripped a two-run double, and then Thome's two-run homer, his 31st of the season, made it a 6-4 game.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN GRESS/REUTERS

Toronto Blue Jays' Rod Barajas, right, and Lyle Overbay celebrate scoring on the Chicago White Sox during last night's game. The Jays beat the White Sox 6-4.

Canadiens to retire Roy's number 33

NHL Patrick Roy, one of the most celebrated netminders in the history of the NHL, will have his Montreal Canadiens No. 33 retired and raised to the rafters of the Bell Centre on Nov. 22, the team announced yesterday.

Roy will become the 15th player in team history to have his sweater retired. The ceremony is one of a handful of events scheduled during the Canadiens' centennial season.

Montreal drafted Roy in the third round (51st overall) of the 1984 Entry Draft and he played his first 11 seasons for the Canadiens, backstopping them to the Stanley Cup in 1986, his rookie campaign, and again in 1993. Roy was awarded the Conn Smythe trophy both times as the most valuable player in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Roy's tenure with the organization ended on frosty terms during the 1995-96 season. On December 2, then-Montreal head coach Mario Tremblay decided to keep Roy between the pipes during a blowout loss to the Detroit Red Wings, and the infuriated Quebec native chastised management. Four days after his infamous blowup, Roy was dealt to Colorado, where he went on to capture his third title with the Avalanche that spring.

In 2001, he won his fourth Cup and third Conn Smythe trophy, making him the only player in league history to win the prestigious award three times.

Roy was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on Nov. 13, 2006. REUTERS

SHAUN BEST/REUTERS

Former NHL great Patrick Roy will have his number 33 jersey retired by Montreal Canadiens, the team announced yesterday.

Sports in brief

MLB Baltimore Orioles closer George Sherrill was activated from the 15-day disabled list yesterday. The reliever was sidelined on Aug. 19, retroactive to Aug. 16, with left shoulder inflammation. Sherrill, Baltimore's only representative at this year's All Star Game, is 3-5 with a 4.47 earned-run average and 31 saves in 53 games.

NFL Hurricane Ike has forced Sunday's game between the Houston Texans and Baltimore Ravens to be moved. The storm is set to hit Texas late today or early Saturday. The home-opener for Houston was originally scheduled for 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, but will now take place at 5:30 p.m.on Monday.
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Jets sign Baker to a contract extension
The New York Jets have signed tight end Chris Baker to a contract extension, the team announced yesterday. The contract is a three-year extension through the 2012 season and, according to the New York Post, it will pay him $12.2 million, including $9 million guaranteed during the added years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-player disses CFL

Ayanbadejo compares league to junior-college football

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Many here in Canada tend to take the CFL seriously, but just how seriously do its players take it?

Brendon Ayanbadejo, a linebacker who spent two seasons earlier this decade with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Toronto Argonauts and B.C. Lions, and is a member these days of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens, has some face-slapping views about the CFL. When asked by the Baltimore Sun this week what the CFL was like, Ayanbadejo said this (brace yourself):

"It was like being paid to play junior-college football. Junior college was fun, but it was definitely not as serious as Division One, and the CFL is definitely not nearly as serious as the NFL. You get paid to do it, and you have fun and travel around Canada and learn about other people and other customs, but …"

Ouch.

If you think about it, though, the CFL really is perceived generally as nothing but a stepping stone by U.S. players aiming to make the NFL.

Heck, Winnipeg veteran Milt Stegall, who can set the CFL's receiving record with 17 yards during the Bombers' game in Toronto tonight, ended up in Canada only because he failed in NFL tryouts. And even Don Matthews, the ornery head coach who returns to the sidelines with the Argos tonight, is the CFL career leader in wins only because his many applications to the NFL were rejected.

Brendon Ayanbadejo of the Baltimore Ravens

I have some thoughts on Matthews, incidentally, and you can read them and other CFL-oriented notes in my latest CFL Report, exclusively at www.metronews.ca.

• Two B.C. natives are in the running to be chosen MVP in the AL this season. Justin Morneau and Jason Bay have been major contributors to the playoff runs for the Minnesota Twins and Boston Red Sox, respectively, and will draw votes from voting baseball reporters.

There is an issue, however, that could prevent Bay from getting sufficient support. It's the same issue that may hurt the chances of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez and/or the Milwaukee Brewers' C.C. Sabathia in the running for NL MVP. All three joined their teams after mid-season, inter-league trades.

Foul ball

• The mother-in-law of White Sox pitcher Javier Vazquez was hit in the head by a foul ball while he was pitching against the Blue Jays in Chicago this week. She fainted but, we're told, wasn't seriously injured.

"People are talking about not voting for Jason, Manny or C.C. because they came from other leagues, but that's pure nonsense," said ESPN analyst Rick Sutcliffe, a former MLB pitcher. "Why should these guys be penalized because they were traded? Forget about that other-league stuff. We have inter-league games now and we should have inter-league MVPs."

• And look for ex-Blue Jays pitcher Bud Black to be fired as the San Diego Padres' manager right after the season.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 6 Chicago White Sox 4
Baltimore 6 Cleveland 3
Kansas City 3 Minnesota 2 (10 ings)
Texas 6 Oakland 1
L.A. Angels 7 Seattle 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 8 Colorado 4
Houston 6 Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 6 Milwaukee 3
Chicago Cubs 3 St. Louis 2
San Diego 11 San Francisco 3

TONIGHT'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto at Boston, 4:05
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05
Kansas City at Cleveland, 4:05
Minnesota at Baltimore, 4:05
Detroit at Chicago White Sox, 5:11
Texas at Oakland, 7:05
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 7:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 4:05
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 4:05
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 4:10
Washington at Florida, 4:10
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 6:05
Cincinnati at Arizona, 6:40
San Francisco at San Diego, 7:05

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	2	0	16
Edmonton	6	4	0	12
Calgary	6	4	0	12
B.C.	5	5	0	10

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	7	3	0	14
Toronto	4	6	0	8
Winnipeg	2	8	0	4
Hamilton	2	8	0	4

WEEK 12

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Winnipeg at Toronto, 4
Montreal at Calgary, 7

TOMORROW'S GAMES
Hamilton at Edmonton, 4
Saskatchewan at B.C., 7

NFL

WEEK 2

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Carolina, 10
Tennessee at Cincinnati, 10
Green Bay at Detroit, 10
Buffalo at Jacksonville, 10
Oakland at Kansas City, 10
Indianapolis at Minnesota, 10
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis, 10
New Orleans at Washington, 10
San Francisco at Seattle, 1:05
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1:05
Miami at Arizona, 1:15
San Diego at Denver, 1:15
New England at N.Y. Jets, 1:15
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 5:15

MONDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at Dallas, 5:30
Baltimore at Houston, 5:30

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TOMORROW'S GAMES
Montreal at VANCOUVER, 7

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Go Abroad

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Fair caters to youth under 30

It's nice to get out of the office, even nicer to get out of the country.

Under 30 and looking for something beyond the everyday? The Go Abroad Fair may just be for you. Running tomorrow and Sunday, the fair will feature more than 100 exhibitors showcasing studying, volunteer and job opportunities — primarily for those under 30 — from all over the world. Speaking at the event will be Jean-Marc Hachey, author of The Big Guide To Living And Working Overseas.

Whether you want to backpack in Queensland, Australia or study art in Glasgow, Scotland, the Go Abroad Fair has something for everyone, says Morgan Tilley, event co-ordinator for the Canadian Education Centre Network, which hosts the event. She knows the benefits of international experience first-hand: Tilley worked in London last year after gaining her education from McMaster University and Seneca College, and was sorry to leave the British metropolis.

"It was like leaving the centre of the universe. Everything was going on there," says Tilley. "It's just such a great experience working abroad, and it never hurts your resumé. At this fair, there really is something for everyone."

For more, go to goabroadfair.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Want to go?

- **What:** 2008 Going Abroad Fair
- **Where:** Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre
- **When:** Saturday from noon to 6 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Admission:** Free

Opportunities abound

Fair showcases options for work, study abroad

North Vancouver resident Jessica Selzer, 26, with her book Do It Afraid, about student travelling in New Zealand.

HOLLIE LATULIPPE/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

HOLLIE LATULIPPE
for Metro Vancouver

Adventurous students with itchy feet are being invited to attend the second annual Go Abroad Fair in Vancouver this weekend.

The fair at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre will showcase volunteer, work and study opportunities abroad with many different organizations.

For 26-year-old Jessica Selzer, the experience of studying in New Zealand for 10 months changed her life and made her a more outgoing, adventurous person.

Selzer, who lives in North Vancouver, published a book on her travels called Do It Afraid.

She was studying history at the University of Toronto in 2004 when she decided to take a chance on something new, which was initially scary, she said.

"I was a very quiet person. I would stay home and translate Latin," she said with a laugh. "I didn't know anything about New Zealand."

She forced herself to apply for the trip through her school, and was one of two students chosen to go. She took out a loan to fund her trip.

When she arrived at her international dormitory in February, she instantly made friends with people from all over the world.

Completing her undergraduate in New Zealand was easy and she enjoyed her classes, she said.

In her free time, she went climbing up a glacier with ice picks; blackwater rafting, which took her into a cave tubing amongst eels; and canyon swinging, which got her into a harness swinging high up in a canyon.

For students thinking of going overseas, her advice is to go for it, because she will remember her trip for the rest of her life.

> **"Put yourself out there and take risks."** Jessica Selzer

"Put yourself out there and take risks," she said.

The show at the Exhibition Centre is free to attend, and runs tomorrow from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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music Pg 24

Vinyl staying alive

metro weekend
VANCOUVER metronews.ca

tv Pg 25

Being weak made me strong, Idol says

Movies

Pretty women

Pg 16

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Screen siren Eva Mendes, right, says she took the role of a manipulative, home-wrecking femme fatale in the movie The Women because she couldn't pass up an all-female, powerhouse cast, including Meg Ryan, left.

movies Pg 18

Coen brothers capable of more in Burn After Reading.

music Pg 24

Beast's duo taps into romance, nostalgia, menace.

urban foodie Pg 28

Chow dedicates itself to local and organic cuisine.

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Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Screen siren

Eva Mendes makes sexy work in The Women

TINA CHADHA
for Metro Canada

"If Martin Scorsese called with a great script and a role for me as a femme fatale, I'm going to take it," says Eva Mendes.

She certainly doesn't shy away from the screen siren roles — such as her breakthrough as Denzel Washington's girlfriend in Training Days and the perfume spritzing, manipulative "other woman" in The Women, opening today — that often get thrown her way. Oh, and don't forget that sensual Calvin Klein ad campaign, either.

"In life, you get certain opportunities and you make due with what you have," explains the 30-year-old. "I never just take a role. It's never a frivolous decision, or a decision based on money only. It's always, 'How is this going to improve me as an actress? How is this going to play a big picture in my career?'"

A seasoned supporting cast definitely helps in the decision making process. For Mendes, The Women —a recreation of the 1939 comedy about a group of wealthy friends — starring Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith, Candice Bergen and Bette Midler, was a no-brainer.

"It's such a boys club in Hollywood, you have to take these films when they come up," she says about the all female cast." The hope for the film is, like Sex in the City and Mamma Mia!, this forward-thinking chick flick of sorts will help drive more ladies to the theater.

"If studios see that women are flocking to supporting each other and to see each others' movies, they'll start writing better roles for us," says the Cuban-American, who also hopes this will eventually trickle down to better roles for ethnic women.

"There's never an Indian woman portrayed, and Asian women? Where are the Asian women out there?" she exclaims. "We really need to see some more diversity."

Mendes plans to keep paving the way in that respect, leading with her craft, not always her looks.

"What I feel that I have to offer that no one has tapped into is range," she insists. "I have incredible range because I'm actually a trained actress; I've been studying for nine years. Because I study my craft I feel very confident that if you put me in a room with any director I will deliver."

GETTY IMAGES

Eva Mendes plays the other woman in The Women.

Mendes pauses, contemplatively. "I'm not given those opportunity as much, but that's part of the process," she adds.

It's a positive attitude to have in an industry that is relentlessly scrutinizing — especially after this trying year, when Mendes checked herself into a rehab facility. Maybe the self-esteem stems from the support system in her own life. Her personal group of gals — mom, sisters, best friends from junior high — all accompanied her to the premiere of The Women ("I couldn't make a move without them"). At home, Mendes, along with longtime boyfriend George Augusto, is starting a décor line called Vida ("Interior design and architecture are my passions").

And while she's dying to exercise that range and stretch her funny bone in a full-out comedy — think: the Cohen brother's slapstick style — next up for Mendes is The Spirit.

"I play a major femme fetal in that one," she says mischievously. "But it's so fun. She's a jewel thief."

The Women like a long sitcom

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Canada

The Women
Director: Diane English
Stars: Annette Bening, Meg Ryan, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith, Cloris Leachman, Eva Mendes, Candice Bergman, Bette Midler
Classification: PG
Rating: ½

REVIEW First of all, purists be warned. The classic 1939 George Cukor film The Women, based on the Broadway play by Claire Luce Booth, was a biting indictment of the social times and starred legendary Hollywood actresses. This is not that.

Annette Bening leads a trendy group of Manhattan friends played by Meg Ryan, Debra Messing and Jada Pinkett Smith.

Yes, four female friends in Manhattan. Sound familiar? The comparisons to Carrie Bradshaw and her buddies are too obvious to ignore.

In fact, in the hands of writer/director Diane English, the movie often seems like an extended episode of Sex and The City for the moneyed, menopausal set.

English is the creative genius behind 10 years of TV's Murphy Brown — and that's the problem. The movie plays like a TV sitcom. One-liners replace emotion. A husband's infidelity, which should be emotionally gut wrenching, is played for cheap zingers.

As the wronged wife, Meg Ryan acts like this betrayal is more of an inconvenience to her social plans as opposed to a devastating life crisis. Her subsequent transition to "empowerment" is unconvincing and occurs with lightning speed.

With the possible exception of a wonderful Cloris Leachman, no one is looking for Oscar gold here.

Although, there is some excellent work by the sexy "home wrecker" Eva Mendes, motor-mouth manicurist Deb Mazur, and a very classy Candice Bergen — Murphy Brown herself.

The main foursome, however, play this for trashy fun and they are fearless about it. Unfortunately we care nothing about them; they are shallow and superficial and seemingly untouched by any real emotion.

But to the credit of the actresses, they were just following the script and taking direction from someone making a television sitcom.

Too bad, because there was a good movie in here.

Kidman tops Hollywood overpaid list

BOX OFFICE Nicole Kidman was named the most overpaid celebrity in Hollywood in the second annual list of least bankable stars by U.S. magazine Forbes, taking the top slot from fellow Australian Russell Crowe.

Kidman's films were estimated to only earn $1 for every dollar the Oscar-winning actress was paid compared with $8 a year ago.

The Invasion, a remake of the 1956 classic Invasion of the Body Snatchers, even lost $2.68 for every dollar earned by Kidman who was reportedly paid $17 million for her role.

"Despite winning an Oscar for her performance in 2002's The Hours, Kidman has become the most overpaid celebrity in Hollywood," said Forbes, adding that her upcoming movie Australia could give her a boost.

Nicole Kidman

Second in the list came Jennifer Garner, whose movies including The Kingdom and Catch and Release have underperformed at the box office. Her movies were calculated to earn $3.60 for every $1 she was paid.

Kidman's ex-husband, Tom Cruise, came third in the list with a $4 return for every dollar he was paid, mostly because of the failure of last year's movie Lions for Lambs.

For every dollar the star earned the film returned only $1.88.

Forbes said the ranking was compiled by looking at a star's past three movies and dividing their total earnings by the films' gross income to get the actor's payback figure.

Making up the top 10 of overpaid Hollywood celebrities were Cameron Diaz, Jim Carrey, Nicolas Cage, Drew Barrymore, Will Ferrell and Cate Blanchett.

The actor whose bankability improved most over the past year was Crowe, who was ranked the most overpaid celebrity last year when Kidman was in second plce.

Last year, Forbes estimated the movie Cinderella Man earned $5 for every dollar that Crowe was paid.

REUTERS

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Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Playing with friends

Frances McDormand and George Clooney are lovers in the Coen brothers' Burn After Reading.

Burn After Reading

Director: Joel and Ethan Coen
Stars: George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt
Classification: 14A
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Barely a year after Joel and Ethan Coen released one of the finest movies of their career, No Country For Old Men, the auteur siblings have returned.

In typical Coen style they made a tonal 180-degree turn, moving from a tightly crafted thriller that ruminates on the nature of violence to a fast-paced comedic farce that plays hatchet murders for slapstick comedy.

Given that No Country saw the brothers regain the edge and craft of their early thrillers, there was hope that this movie would return them to the comedic heyday of Raising Arizona and The Big Lebowski.

While Burn After Reading is a better comedy than the brothers' recent Hollywood dalliances like Intolerable Cruelty, it's still far too inconsistent to match their finest work.

The film stars Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand as a pair of dimwitted personal trainers who stumble upon a CD filled with the financial records of a former employee of the CIA (John Malkovich).

Convinced that they have sensitive data, the pair attempt to blackmail Malkovich. George Clooney, who appears as the sex-obsessed lover of both McDormand and Malkovich's wife, finds himself entangled in the mess.

Ultimately, the movie plays out like a loose collection of funny characters and ideas linked together by a half-hearted plot.

As a simple comedy, it certainly works and will provide plenty of laughs, but the Coen brothers are capable of more. Hopefully, next time they'll take comedy more seriously.

Movie morsels

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

REVIEW The Clone Wars sticks Anakin Skywalker and company in the middle of an intergalactic war between the clones and the droids. In reality, this movie kicks-off a new animated series and highlighting where this film truly belongs – on TV. Sure, it's an interesting combination of CGI and anime but the story itself is about as compelling as watching somebody play a videogame for 90 minutes.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Tropic Thunder

REVIEW Ben Stiller leads the all-star cast of Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and even Tom Cruise in this great spoof of Hollywood egos and icons. Stiller plays Tugg Speedman, a fleeting action star leading the cast of a fictional war film being shot in Southeast Asia. After the movie goes over budget, the actors are sent into the jungle to capture "real fear in their eyes". Instead, the gang loses their director, get lost themselves and fall prey to real terrorists. The twist: They're convinced it's all part of the movie.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Pineapple Express

REVIEW Produced by Judd Apatow and starring Seth Rogen, this film is a Midnight Run-type caper about a dope-smoking process server who goes on the lam with his hapless drug dealer (James Franco) after witnessing a murder. Sure, it's a hollow story and the pacing is uneven, but this comedy still works as an impossibly hip comedy about impossibly uncool characters.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

REVIEW Vicky Cristina Barcelona was released a year shy of the 40th anniversary of Woody Allen's directorial debut Take The Money and Run. Despite the director's accomplished career, his latest movie has the energy and vitality of a young filmmaker trying to make a name for himself. Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall star as the titular duo, two lost souls spending a summer in Barcelona. They meet Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem), an artist who introduces himself by inviting the pair to join him for a weekend of food, wine, and lovemaking.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Film legends De Niro, Pacino can't redeem Righteous Kill

Righteous Kill

Director: Jon Avnett
Stars: Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, 50 Cent
Classification: 14A
Rating:

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Robert De Niro and Al Pacino share the screen for the third time.

REVIEW The publicity for Jon Avnet's Righteous Kill is committed to selling the film around Robert De Niro and Al Pacino sharing the screen, as if such an event were a natural phenomenon on the order of Halley's Comet.

The fact is that the two men have been in the same film twice before, once in Michael Mann's Heat, and the first time a long cinematic epoch ago in Godfather II — before either of them had the post-Brando stature they enjoy today, and where they were after all never on-screen together, being separated by several decades and many flashbacks.

The fact is that if there were a compelling reason to pair Pacino and De Niro like some sort of twitchy, bellowing Martin and Lewis, it would have been done many times by now.

The two men might be able to steal scenes from lesser actors, but together their onscreen chemistry is like diet soda and a candy bar — fine on their own, but together they leave us feeling twice as remorseful.

The plot, a purposefully confusing mess involving vigilante cops and a drug lord played by rapper 50 Cent in what we can only presume was his best chance to get his Scarface poster autographed, adds no particular value to any prodigious amount of acting.

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32330 South Fraser Way, Unit 4

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Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., SEPT. 12 TO THURS., SEPT. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Vancouver

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Amazon (STC) Mon 1:30 Thu 12:30

Beavers (STC) A.M. Tue 9:30

Bugs! 3D A.M. Mon 9:30 A.M. Wed 10:30

Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Fri 4-8 Sat-Sun 12-2-4-8 Mon 11:30-8 Tue 1:30-8 Wed-Thu 8

Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri 1:30 Sat-Sun 1-3 Tue 12:30 A.M. Thu 10:30

Greece: Secrets of the Past (STC) Mon 12:30 A.M. Tue 11:30

The Human Body (STC) Fri 9:30-7 Sat-Tue 7 Wed 1:30-7 Thu 9:30-7

Hurricane on the Bayou (STC) A.M. Tue 10:30 A.M. Thu 11:30

Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 10:30-3-9 Sat 11-5-9 Sun 11-5 Mon-Thu 3

Mystic India A.M. Fri 11:30 A.M. Wed 9:30

Space Station A.M. Mon 10:30 Wed 12:30

Whales: An Unforgettable Journey (STC) Fri 12:30 A.M. Wed 11:30 Thu 1:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Deep Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 6-9

Dolphins and Whales 3D: Tribes of the Ocean (G) Fri 2-10 Sat-Sun 2-5-10 Mon-Thu 2-10

Fly Me to the Moon 3-D Fri-Thu 12-3-7

DENMAN THEATRE
1737 Comox, 604-683-2201

Listings not available at press time.

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Amal (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:45-6:50-9:05

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:30-9:45

Elegy (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:25

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:15-7:20-9:35 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:15-9:35

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:10-9:15

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Babylon A.D. (14A) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:50-4-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

Brideshead Revisited (PG) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05

College (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50

Death Note 2: The Last Name (STC) Mon 9

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat 4:10-6:50-9:40 Sun 1:35-4:10-6:50-9:40 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:40

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:35 Mon-Tue 6:55-9:35 Wed 9:35 Thu 6:55-9:35

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:20-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45

Opus Arte - Cinderella (Ballet) (STC) No Passes Sat 1

Ploning (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10

The X-Files: I Want to Believe (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 3:20-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

Vantage Point (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

The Dark Knight (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 9

Mamma Mia! (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:30 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 1:50-4:10-6:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:30

Righteous Kill (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri 7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2-4:20-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 7-9:20

The Women (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 7:05-9:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Antonio Gaudi (STC) Mon 7:30-9

Everything's Fine (STC) Wed 7:30

The Immortal Alain (STC) Thu 7:30

The Searchers (STC) Tue 1

Trans Europe Express (STC) Thu 9:25

Vancouver Latin American Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sun

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Claim, the Greatest Ski Movie ... Ever! (STC) Wed 8

The Women (PG) Fri 4-7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:25 Mon-Tue 4-7-9:25 Wed 4 Thu 4-7-9:25

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Outsourced (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Tue 4-7-9:15 Wed 1-4-7-9:15 Thu 4-7-9:15

Paris Opera Ballet of Cinderella (STC) A.M. Sat 10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Batman Begins (PG) Sat-Sun 4

Carrie (STC) Fri 12

Class of 1984 (STC) Fri

Comedy Festival (STC) Tue-Wed

The Dark Knight (14A) Sat-Mon 7-10

Porno Chick (STC) Thu 9

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (STC) Fri 9

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Bangkok Dangerous (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:15-9:45

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-12:50-2:40-3:30-5:7:10-7:40-9:40-10:30

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Mon 12:15-3:40-7:10:15 Tue 7-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:40-7-10:15

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:30 Tue 6:40-9:30 Wed 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:30 Thu 1:20-3:50-9:30

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:30-10:20 Mon 7:30-10:20 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:30-10:20 Wed 1:10-4:15-10:20 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:30-10:20

Righteous Kill (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:50 Fri-Thu 1-4-7:20-10:10

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:45-10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Death Race (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:55-5:25-7:55-10:20

The Edge of Heaven (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:40-10:25

Elegy No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:20-10:05

Frozen River (PG) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:30

Hamlet 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 2:40-5-7:25-9:35

Mamma Mia! (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 8:20 No Passes Thu 8:20

Mamma Mia! Sing-a-Long (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15

Sukiyaki Western Django (18A) Fri-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:30-9:55

Traitor (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Thu 2:45-5:10-7:35-10

WALL-E (G) Fri-Mon 1-3:20-5:50 Tue-Wed 1-3:20 Thu 1-3:20-5:50

The Women (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

La France (STC) Fri 8:45 Sat 7 Sun-Mon 8:45 Wed 7

Surfwise (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun-Mon 7 Wed 9

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 4:55-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05

North Shore

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-4:25-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-8 Mon-Thu 8

Fly Me to the Moon 3-D (G) Fri 6:55-9 Sat-Sun 2:20-4:20-6:55-9 Mon-Thu 6:55-9

The House Bunny (PG) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat 4:10-7:05-9:25 Sun 1:50-4:10-7:05-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:25

Opus Arte — Cinderella (Ballet) (STC) Sat 1

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

The Women (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Bangkok Dangerous (18A) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10

Death Race (18A) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20

Pineapple Express (18A) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30

Righteous Kill (14A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Traitor (PG) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:10-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40

Richmond

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Bangkok Dangerous (18A) Fri 4:40-7:20-10 Sat 1:55-4:40-7:20-10 Sun 1:55-4:40-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 4:35-7:15-9:50 Sat 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 Sun 1:50-4:35-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15

The House Bunny (PG) Fri 4:25-7:05-9:40 Sat 1:40-4:25-7:05-9:40 Sun 1:40-4:25-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:05

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri 4:15-6:55-9:35 Sat 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:35 Sun 1:30-4:15-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:55

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri 4:30-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:45-4:30-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:10

The Women (PG) Fri 4:20-7-9:45 Sat 1:35-4:20-7-9:45 Sun 1:35-4:20-7 Mon-Thu 4:20-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Babylon A.D. (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:25-9:45

Bangkok Dangerous (18A) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:55-10:35

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Wed 1-2-3:30-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:30-10:10 Thu 2-3:30-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:15

Death Note (PG) Mon 9

Death Race (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:50-8-10:30

The House Bunny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:55-9:20

Mamma Mia! Sing-a-Long (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:35-9:25

Mera Pind (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-5-9

Mirrors (18A) Fri-Thu 10:20

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:40 Mon 1:10-3:55-6:30 Tue-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-9:40

Pineapple Express Fri-Thu 7:20-10:05

Righteous Kill (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:30

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10

Traitor (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-7:35-10:15

Tropic Thunder (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:25

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-6:45-9:15

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25

The Women (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:45-6:40-9:35 Thu 3:45-6:40-9:35 Star & Strollers Thu 1

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Last comic standing

Dat Phan, winner of NBC's original Last Comic Standing, performs in Vancouver this weekend alongside three of North America's funniest Asian comedians. Performances are on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at the Edgewater Casino, edgewatercasino.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

West Coast Weekend

clubs

FRI. 9 P.M. Five Alarm Funk perform live with special guest Eric Solomon. At Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $13. fivealarmfunk.com.

FRI. 9 P.M. DJs John Digweed and Kevin Shiu spin progressive house. At Celebrities Night Club, 1022 Davie St. Tix: $35. celebritiesnightclub.com.

SAT. 8 P.M. U.K. DJ Charles Webster plays the best of house and dance. At Ginger 62, 1219 Granville St. Tix: $17. nordictrax.com.

SAT. 9 P.M. 1 Luv & Unity, playing sexy house, Top 40 and more. At The Canvas Lounge, 99 Powell St. Tix: $20. canvaslounge.ca.

SUN. 8 P.M. Alison Hinds, Queen of Soca, takes the stage with Nasty Jag. At The Plaza Club, 881 Granville St. Tix: $35 advance. slimandbucky.com.

theatre

FRI.-SAT. 8 P.M. AND 10 P.M. Vancouver Theatre Sports League, the best of improv comedy. At the New Revue Stage on Granville Island. Tix: $10-$18. vtsl.com.

TO SEPT. 20. Global Comedyfest, featuring Carol Burnett, Janeane Garofalo, Andy Richter and others. At various Vancouver venues. comedyfest.com.

TO OCT. 12. Doubt, the story of a Catholic school nun who suspects the residential priest of sexual misconduct. At the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville. Tix: start at $31. artsclub.com.

TO SUN. The 24th Vancouver International Fringe Festival. vancouverfringe.com.

Still some summer in the city

WestCoast**Outdoors**

Dave Norona

noronalife.com

September is the ideal month to get out and explore our awesome city. The weather is still warm and sunny and the crowds are long gone.

Here are just a few exciting things to do:

Stanley Park and Coal Harbour are just minutes from downtown and offer some super fun activities that make you feel like you are in the middle of nowhere. Coal Harbour Boat Rentals offers excellent speedboat rentals at fantastic prices. From their two locations you can get off and explore our beautiful coastline with its many bays and secret coves. (boatrent.ca)

When you're back on land, check out one of the many bike rental companies on Denman and Georgia streets. Each shop rents comfortable city bikes that will allow you to enjoy the many nooks and crannies of Stanley Park and it's famous Seawall. (vancouverbikerental.com)

Grouse Mountain is called the Peak of Vancouver for good reason. It has tons of awesome attractions and offers fantastic views of our great city. You can test your fitness level on the Grouse Grind Trail, which snakes its way up. Once up top, you can enjoy the Air Grouse Zipline, which moves you high above the alpine rainforest at speeds of 50 km/h.

Dave Norona and Mike Regan at the Wednesday Night Sailing Series off West Vancouver.

You can also check out the grizzly habitat, tons of great food at Altitudes Bistro and then take a tandem Paragliding ride right off the mountain. Talk about adventure! (grousemountain.com)

Gear Guide

Merrell Women's Outburst Shoe

Merrell's Outburst trail shoe is ideal for any outdoor adventure. It is extremely light, breathable and provides great stability for hiking, running or just cruising through town.

Price: $139

Where to find: *merrell.com*

Salomon Women's Sonic Seam Jacket

This full soft shell hybrid Windstopper jacket from Salomon is perfect for the colder months of fall. Seamless technology makes this lightweight jacket warm and comfy for outdoor sports.

Price: $220

Where to find: *salomonsports.com*

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AIRLINES

The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca

1. Viva La Vida, Coldplay (frontman Chris Martin, left); **2.** Mamma Mia! soundtrack, Various Artists; **3.** The Block, New Kids On The Block; **4.** All I Intended to Be, Emmylou Harris; **5** All Hope Is Gone, Slipknot. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Beast's creepy sound

Duo draws from the melancholic verses of singers past

OnTheBeat

Rob McMahon
rob.mcmahon@metronews.ca

Beast is a group that, like a Victorian ghost, imparts a sense of melancholy and romance in its menace.

The duo's debut is dotted with sounds that recall old Disney Halloween cartoons — of ghosts floating through haunted houses and skeletons singing in graveyards. Asked if such images provided inspiration for the band, Montreal-based vocalist Betty Bonifassi said cartoon influences ended with her work on The Triplettes de Belleville's Oscar-winning soundtrack. Instead, the group draws from the melancholic verses of singers from the 1930s.

"The ghost sounds are more about singers from the 20s and 30s …who had a really, really dark way of singing," she said. "They came off as sad and scary, but romantic at the same time, and very nostalgic about a past that was more secure."

Nostalgia may underlie the tracks, but it doesn't hang deep enough to get musty — most songs explode in instrumentalist/producer Jean-Phi Goncalves' distorted percussion bursts and Bonifassi's angry howls. Even the album's mellowest track, Dark Eye — one of three co-written with Simon Wilcox — is suitably sinister.

"The ghost sounds are more about singers from the 20s and 30s ... who had a really, really dark way of singing."
Betty Bonifassi

Goncalves and Bonifassi united two-and-a-half years ago over a desire to fuse electronic and organic sounds in a deeper format than a cut n' paste aesthetic. The resulting fusion of live instrumentation, electro beats and filtered vocals sounds like a grittier take on Air's Moon Safari or Honeycut's The Day I Turned To Glass. Aside from Satan, which was built around a sample from a Charles Mingus jazz routine, the duo created every sound on the album.

"We took ideas from hip-hop producers that are using textures in a really rock (n' roll) way … We decided to put a filter over my voice, so it sounded like a woman in pain, mad at a whole lot of things, who can't be sweet all the time," she said. "I have this bizarre vocal range, since I'm a woman with a very masculine voice … so I wanted to build on that."

MAPLE MUSIC RECORDINGS PHENOMENE RECORDINGS AND DEA AMUSIC

Beast play UBC's Pit Pub with Vancouver's You Say Party! We Say Die! and Winter Gloves tomorrow. Their self-titled album will be released on Sept. 30.

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You Spin Me Round — Like a Record

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

In the early and middle 90s, while, it seemed that everyone on the planet was looking to dump their vinyl record collections in favour of CDs because we all bought the line about "perfect sound, forever."

Music stores couldn't phase out their vinyl sections fast enough and fans feared that turntables and styli would go the way of the 8-track. Used record stores were swamped and every garage sale had milk crates full of LPs going for a penny apiece.

Despite attempts to kill it off, vinyl did not become extinct. Collectors kept collecting. DJs preferred the tactile feel and action of vinyl on turntables. And manufacturers kept making vinyl records and turntables, including for audiophiles who never believed the hype of CDs in the first place. And while vinyl's share of the market for pre-recorded music dropped to almost zero, it's never became extinct.

Today, strange things are happening in the vinyl market. Manufacturing plants are having a hard time keeping up with orders. Major labels are expanding the number of vinyl releases. Vinyl sections are reappearing in both bricks-and-mortar stores and in special sections in places like Amazon. Sales numbers are still small — only 1.3 million records were sold in the U.S. last year — but that represents a 37 per cent increase over 2006.

And it's not older people driving the market; it's the iPod Generation. The sheer inconvenience of vinyl — its size, cost, poor portability, etc. — is being embraced by young fans as a way of showing how much they care about music.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

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Cole cameo

Actor Gary Cole will be swinging by Chuck in the role of secret agent Sarah's father for a single November sweeps episode, a show rep has confirmed. **TVGUIDE.COM**

TV

CTV PHOTO

After four million votes, Canadians chose Tams as the new Idol.

Idol wears title proudly

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

T-H-E-O. His fans root for him by shaking neon coloured Bristol board letters that spell his name in the air.

He's got an astute, confident expression in his face and visually exhibitionist features like a piercing in his left eyelid. Each week he impresses a panel of music industry professionals and performs cover songs in front of millions of viewers. But despite his obvious exterior poise, newly crowned Canadian Idol Theo Tams admits he is brimming with insecurity.

"From my first audition, when I walked in with pit stains the size of Montana, I think that I had no choice but to really be myself," said the 23-year-old Lethbridge, Alta., student over a celebratory beer after learning he had won the coveted Idol title.

"From that moment, I said to myself, 'I have insecurities. I have weaknesses just like anybody else,' " he said, clutching his pint of Heineken, "But there's no reason why I can't step up and take this."

And step up he did. With more than four million votes cast, it was announced live Wednesday night that Tams beat fellow finalist Mitch MacDonald, 22, of Port Hood, N.S., following a musical face off Monday.

Tams' transparency about his internal vulnerability comes from the misconception he said people make about those in the entertainment industry being "perfect little people."

"I think it's (insecurities and weaknesses) that keep it real and keep it interesting and keep it relatable. I hope I never lose those things."

While growing up, Tams said he struggled with distinguishing himself and exuding confidence within his family and circle of friends. On a program like Canadian Idol, where finding success relies on selling yourself to a national audience, Tams said he was able to take away a sense of gratification in knowing he had defeated some of his youthful failings.

"That's the biggest thing I'm proud of, that I was able to be myself for the whole entire show and people fell in love with that. People voted for that."

Tams said he is going to play off that experience, of being honest and intimate about what causes him anxiety, to construct what he calls a "clear vision" of the type of artist he wants to be.

"Music should be comforting but music should also be a challenge to you to step up and be better than you were the day before."

Vocalists Needed:
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Gospel's Dynamic Duets

Armstrong may return to show

CASTING Actress Samaire Armstrong has been invited back to the TV show she was dropped from as a regular, after tackling "personal issues" in rehab, imdb.com reports.

The former The O.C. star will return as privileged rich girl Juliet Darling in episodes of Dirty Sexy Money next year, but series creator Craig Wright doesn't think her return to the program will be permanent.

"I want her to stop by when it's fun for her, and then (I'll) send her (character) off on new adventures," he tells TV Guide.

But Wright insists there's no ill feeling between himself and the actress, who checked into a treatment facility after she was dropped from the show in 2007: "We're all on very good terms."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

STEPHEN SHUGERMAN/GETTY IMAGES/FILE PHOTO

Samaire Armstrong could be back on Dirty Sexy Money.

Garth's staying, Doherty's going

CASTING Actress Shannen Doherty won't be doing any more than the first four episodes of 90210 that she signed on for, ew.com reports.

"They asked me to do a lot more," says Doherty, who adds she is in the "middle of pitching a show," so she couldn't "commit" to more time in the zip code. On the other hand, Kelly Taylor (Jennie Garth) is to appear on five more shows.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FRIDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce Live	Comedy Fest.	MVP-Lives of Hockey Wives		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	JOY	E News	The Insider	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	20/20 (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Greek "Separation Anxiety"		Law & Order (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Very Bad Men (CC)		NUMB3RS "Velocity" (CC)		NUMB3RS "Pay to Play"		News (N)
	256	389	VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Toughest Jobs		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Camelot"		News (CC)
	253	359	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Survivorman (CC)		Secret Life of American Teen		Kaya (CC)	Most Amazing	Reviews
	-	-	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) (CC)				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Ghost Whisperer (CC)		NUMB3RS "Pay to Play"		News (N)
	287	379	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	America's Toughest Jobs		Dateline NBC (CC)				News (N)
	288	380	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The 2008 ALMA Awards Latino artistic achievement. (N) (CC)				20/20 (CC)		News (N)
	290	382	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (CC)		News (N)	IQ Weekly	Family Guy
news	502	390	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
family	400	400	TSN	CFL Football Montreal Alouettes at Calgary Stampeders. From McMahon Stadium in Calgary.						SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	YTV	Aquamarine ★★ (2006) Sara Paxton. Premiere. (CC)				The Next Star "The Duet"		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Father	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
variety	268	354	KNO	Emily of New Moon (CC)		The Royal "Laura" (CC)		Margery & Gladys (CC)				Baseball
	575	583	CMT	Johnny Cash Memorial		Dedicated		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Ed (CC)
	615	520	A&E	CSI: Miami "Nailed" (CC)		Criminal Minds "The Tribe"		CSI: Miami "Triple Threat"		CSI: Miami "Bloodline" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	TLC	Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Sarah D."		What Not to Wear "Tara K."		Dress	Dress	Who Wearing
	616	522	SHO	The Best Years "Notorious"		The Guard "Live Free" (CC)		Cock'd Gunns	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	294	650	TBS	(6:00) Pretty Woman ★★★		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:15) Cocktail ★★ (1988) (PA) Tom Cruise, Bryan Brown. (CC)				(:15) Maverick
	603	561	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Road Tasted	Dinner	Glutton	Iron Chef America (CC)		Tasty Travels	Food Safari	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	CEN	(6:15) Little Miss Sunshine		The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford ★★★ (2007)				(:45) The Black Dahlia ★★		
	581	566	MTV	The Hills	The Hills	After	MTV Presents	Making the Band 4 (CC)		The Hills	The Hills	Made (CC)

9/12/08

SATURDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	CBC	Equestrian CN International. From Calgary. (Taped) (CC)				The Gods Must Be Crazy ★★★ (1981) Marius Weyers, Sandra Prinsloo. (CC)				
	255	358	JOY	E News	The Soup	D. Richards	Living Lohan	Dr. 90210 (CC)		Forbes 20 Under 25		E News
	250	321	CTV	Fashion Tele.	eTalk (CC)	Terry (2005) Shawn Ashmore, Ryan McDonald. (CC)				Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News (N)
	252	336	GTV	Andromeda (CC)		Andromeda (CC)		Andromeda (CC)		Andromeda The final battle.		News (N)
	256	389	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Fringe "Pilot" (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)			TBA	Invisible Machine		Bravo! Fact
	253	359	CITY	Survivorman (CC)		Role	Kaya (CC)	Better Than Chocolate ★★ (1999) Wendy Crewson. (CC)				Role
	-	-	CW	CSI: NY "Blink" (CC)		King	King	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	CSI: NY (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		NCIS "Identity Crisis" (CC)		48 Hours Mystery A crime of money and power in Alaska.				News (N)
	287	379	NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Chuck (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	288	380	ABC	(5:00) College Football Ohio State at USC.			Whacked Out	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Northern Exposure (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	FOX	2Half Men	2Half Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Scrubs (CC)	MADtv (CC)
news	502	390	NW	China's Sexual Revolution		Sat. Report	Weekend	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	China's Sexual Revolution		Sat. Report
	500	500	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		CNN Saturday Night		
sports	407	419	RSP	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at San Diego Padres. From PETCO Park in San Diego.						Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	400	400	TSN	CFL Football Saskatchewan Roughriders at BC Lions. From BC Place Stadium in Vancouver.						SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	YTV	Wolverine	Transformers	Naruto (CC)	Blue Dragon	Zatch Bell (N)	Bleach (CC)	Storm Hawks	Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Joe's Apartment ★ (1996) Jerry O'Connell.		
variety	268	354	KNO	National Geographic (N)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Sins of Commission" (CC)				Canterbury
	575	583	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Grand Ole Opry Live		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	CMA Awards
	615	520	A&E	My Cousin	The Sopranos "Mayham"		Jacked: Theft	My Cousin Vinny ★★★ (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei. (CC)				
	521	560	TLC	Holmes on Homes		Flip House	Hope-Home	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		Holmes on Homes		Making Home
	616	522	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	Lost Behind Bars (2006) Paget Brewster, Antonio Cupo.				The Terminal ★★★ (2004) Tom Hanks.		
	294	650	TBS	Pretty Woman	The Wedding Date ★★ (2005) Amy Adams			(:15) Forces of Nature ★★ (1999) Sandra Bullock, Ben Affleck. (CC)				
	603	561	FN	Top Chef "High Steaks"		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Iron Chef America (CC)		Top Chef "High Steaks"		Secret Life of
	320	621	CEN	Three Can Play That Game		Michael Clayton ★★★ (2007) George Clooney. Premiere.				No Country for Old Men ★★★ (2007) (CC)		
	581	566	MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Shuffle (CC)		MTV Live	MTV News	After

9/13/08

SUNDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	CBC	Heartland "Nothing Endures"		Flood (2007) (Part 1 of 2) Robert Carlyle, Jessalyn Gilsig. (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (CC)
	255	358	JOY	Instant Beauty Pageant (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Wild Cop	Court Show	Final 24 (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	CTV	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N) (CC) (DVS)				CSI: Miami "All In" (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	GTV	renegade	The Simpsons	Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		Family Guy	American Dad	The Simpsons	King of Hill	News (N)
	256	389	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl "The Dark Night"		Cold Case "Slipping" (CC)		Mad Men (CC)		New Canoe
	253	359	CITY	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Be Cool ★★ (2005) John Travolta, Uma Thurman. (CC)				Survivorman (CC)		Role
	-	-	CW	One Tree Hill (CC)		Privileged "Pilot" (CC)		America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		Big Brother 10 (N) (CC)		Cold Case "Slipping" (CC)		CSI: Miami "All In" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	NBC	NFL Football: Steelers at Browns			M. Holmgren	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	288	380	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives "The Gun Song: Free" (CC)				KOMO 4 News
	290	382	FOX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Fringe "Pilot" An unlikely trio uncovers a deadly mystery.				News (N)	Q It Up Sports	Law/Ord SVU
news	502	390	NW	The Falling Man (CC)			Our World	CBC News: Sunday Night		The Falling Man (CC)		
	500	500	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Investigations
sports	407	419	RSP	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA		Sportsnet Connected		Jays	Baseball	Sportsnet Connected		Ult. Fighter
family	400	400	TSN	NFL Football: Steelers at Browns			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motoring 2008	NASCAR Now (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	YTV	(6:00) Kicking & Screaming ★★ (2005) (CC)			Prank Patrol	The Next Star "The Duet"		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	TEL	George	Fraggle Rock	The Raccoons	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Tank Girl ★ (1995) Lori Petty, Ice-T. (CC)		
variety	268	354	KNO	National Geographic (N)		Rosemary and Thyme (CC)		New Tricks "Buried Treasure"		Canterbury Tales (CC)		Talk Canadian
	575	583	CMT	Tara Diaries	Tara Diaries	Tara Diaries	Tara Diaries	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Tara Diaries	Tara Diaries	Tara Diaries
	615	520	A&E	CSI: Miami "Sunblock" (CC)		The Cleaner "Let It Ride"		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Deep Freeze"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	TLC	Mystery Diagnosis		Mystery Diagnosis		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis		Mystery Diag.
	616	522	SHO	The Guard "Live Free" (CC)		Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict (2008) Sally Pressman.				Weeds (CC)	Rescue Me	Kenny-Spenny
	294	650	TBS	Cast Away	(:40) Cast Away ★★★ (2000, Drama) (PA) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy. (CC)						(:40) Along Came a Spider	
	603	561	FN	Challenge Pie competition.		Challenge "Princess Cakes"		Challenge Knife skills. (CC)		Challenge Ice cream. (CC)		Challenge
	320	621	CEN	Sydney White	Entourage (N)	True Blood "The First Taste"		American Gangster ★★★ (2007) Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe.				
	581	566	MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Shuffle

9/14/08

Baldwin denies road-rage incident

Actor Alec Baldwin has denied reports he caused a car crash in a road-rage incident last weekend. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

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TV

Runner-up keeps it humble

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Mitch MacDonald never intended to audition for Canadian Idol.

But, after months of performing on live television and winning over the nation, and even though he came in second place, the carpenter from Port Hood, N.S., is sure glad he did.

"It was a really spur-of-the-moment thing," said the soft-spoken 22-year-old only minutes after learning of his defeat. "I knew (the auditions) were going on, I never really told anybody and I was just like, 'What the heck? Let's give it a hook.' "

MacDonald was travelling through Europe and the Middle East after teaching children music in Scotland for four and a half months before trying out for the show. He said he coincidentally landed in Halifax during the same week Canadian Idol was holding their Nova Scotia auditions.

"Because they introduced (contestants' allowance to use) instruments last year, at least I could go up there and play my guitar. Now, here I am!" he says with a humble grin and but a touch of an east coast burr.

CTV PHOTO

Canadian Idol runner-up Mitch MacDonald.

While MacDonald may have been less than expectant at the beginning of his Idol journey, he fared considerably well on the program. He beat out more than 10,000 other hopefuls, made the cut to the Top 10 and never appeared in the bottom two or three during any elimination.

"I can't explain how it feels to just lose it by a bit," he said, "I never ever let myself think, 'Oh I'm going to win this.' You just don't know. It's totally out of your hands. All you can do is go out there and do your best."

MacDonald said he never even thought he would make it as far through the competition as he did because of the alternative taste in music he has. The artists he covered on the show ranged from Nova Soctia indie rocker Joel Plaskett and Juno Award-winning songwriter Gordie Sampson to late American musician Elliot Smith.

"I'm happy I made it this far because it shows Canada enjoys music that's a little bit different — the stuff you don't hear on the radio everyday," he said.

And even if MacDonald's less mainstream musical influences means he doesn't fare so well commercially, he said that's just fine with him.

"If I've gotta hammer some nails and play some gigs, everything happens for a reason. As long as I love what I'm doing, that's cool."

Fashion **Ready for Rowley runway**

BRAD BARKET/GETTY IMAGES

Rescue Me star Tatum O'Neill, left, and actress Julia Stiles attend the Cynthia Rowley Spring 2009 fashion show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week yesterday in New York City.

Ferrera talks of female friendships

PEOPLE America Ferrera says TV depicts female friendships in a skewed light, People.com reports.

"Like, if you're watching The Hills or 90210, all the backstabbing shapes the way we act," the Seventeen cover girl says in the magazine's October issue. "I mean, I love Blake (Lively); she's a wonderful friend of mine, but shows like Gossip Girl kind of condition us to be mean."

The Ugly Betty star, 24, says she has managed to keep her own friendships — especially with her Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants costars — cat fight-free.

"One of the most wonderful experiences I've had with girl relationships was working with them," Ferrera says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

WILL RETURN

Longoria's weighty role
Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria has been packing on the pounds to portray alter ego Gaby as an overstressed, overweight mother of two on the show. TVGUIDE.COM

TV

Mad Men, first written eight years ago, almost never got made.

Mad Men woos awards

The characters drink like fish, smoke like chimneys, treat women like doormats and are some of the most admired men on U.S. television.

They are the Mad Men of the eponymous television drama set in a New York advertising agency on the cusp of the 1960s social revolution, and some TV pundits say it could sweep the industry's Emmy awards next week after just one season on air.

"I am interested in the 1950s and the impact it had on our culture, how that transition happened and what it's like for my characters to watch the world change around them," Matt Weiner, the creator, writer and executive producer of Mad Men, said.

"Drinking was completely acceptable — they drove while they were drunk."
Mad Men creator Matt Weiner

Notable for its meticulous detail and leisurely pace, the character-driven series is nominated for 16 Emmys on Sept. 21, including the coveted best drama series and best actor award for star Jon Hamm, who plays brooding account executive Don Draper.

Not bad for a show that was first written eight years ago, almost never got made and originated on U.S. cable channel AMC, which has a small viewership compared the major broadcasters such as NBC, CBS and ABC.

But that audience is getting bigger, thanks to the nominations for TV's highest prize, which have helped double viewing figures in the show's second season to nearly 2 million at its July debut.

Moreover, Mad Men is now syndicated in more than 30 countries worldwide, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and much of Europe.

Weiner, 42, a former writer on the Emmy-winning mob drama The Sopranos, describes himself as a control freak with an obsessive attention to 1962 details, and his attention to the specifics is one of the key factors in the show's success.

"The fruit is smaller, everyone wears a watch at all times, having a pen in your pocket — these are tiny details you don't want to be wrong. We really avoided the characters using the word 'guy,' especially the women, and not swearing," he said.

"Smoking at that time was constant, indoors in meetings, in doctors' offices. But it's been erased from people's memories. Drinking was completely acceptable — they drove while they were drunk, they were around their kids when they were drunk," he said. REUTERS

Metro's 7th Heaven: What's hot right now

1 Brisingr: Inheritance, Book III, by Christopher Paolini
Already a No. 1 bestseller on Amazon.ca even though it doesn't come out until Sept. 20, Brisingr: Inheritance, Book III blends fantasy and science fiction in the story of Eragon, who struggles with promises and choices in his hope to rid the land of tyranny

2 Smallville: The Complete Seventh Season
Just released on Tuesday, this six-DVD box set on the Superman series features unaired scenes, commentary by the cast and creator, a Jimmy On Jimmy featurette bringing together Jimmy Olsens past (Jack Larson and Marc McClure) and present (Aaron Ashmore and Sam Huntington), and more.

3 Michael Phelps
He can swim, but can he be funny, too? Michael Phelps, who recently won a record-breaking eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, hosts the season premiere of Saturday Night Live tomorrow night. Lil Wayne is the musical act.

4 Feminine hair clips
For minimum fuss with maximum effect, clips featuring girly touches like butterflies and tartan buttons will dress up hairstyles through fall and winter, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

5 Pumpkin
Expect this great gourd to start popping up just about everywhere: Not just in consumable items — pies, loafs and lattes — but in body lotions, face masks and home fragrance items, like sprays and candles.

6 Solange Knowles
Solange Knowles is out to make her own musical mark, without help from her famous older sister Beyoncé, thank you very much. In her second album, Sol-Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams, she sings, "I'm not her and never will be/Two girls gone in different directions, striving towards the same galaxy/Let my star light shine on its own" in the song God Given Name.

7 The Quilt, by Gym Class Heroes
The Quilt, the fourth studio album by the band Gym Class Heroes has been recently released, but fans who have yet to get their hands on the CD can go to www.muchmusic.com/music/firstspin/gymclassheroes/ to hear the disc in its entirety.

Applegate to present at Emmys

EVENT Christina Applegate, who underwent a double mastectomy after being diagnosed with breast cancer, will make a high-profile public appearance as one of the presenters at the Emmy Awards, People.com reports.

Applegate

Applegate, 36, who says she is now cancer free, also is nominated for an Emmy for lead actress in a comedy series for Samantha Who? on ABC.

The 60th Primetime Emmy Awards air Sept. 21 on ABC.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's a boy for Laila Ali, husband

FAMILY American Gladiator host Laila Ali and her husband, retired NFL star Curtis Conway, have welcomed their first son together, People.com reports.

Ali announced the arrival of Curtis Muhammad Conway on her website yesterday.

"Although mom and baby are both healthy and happy, there were some surprises during labour that altered Laila's birth plan," the statement said.

Ali has no doubts that Conway — who has twin sons Kelton and Cameron, 13, and daughter Leilani, 9, from a previous relationship — will do his fair share of diaper duty.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A fundraising affair

On Oct. 5, join Growing Chefs! Chefs for Children's Urban Agriculture for a fundraising dinner at the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts (1505 West 2 Ave.) The night includes a reception with canapés, a silent auction, five-course dinner prepared by top chefs and B.C. wine pairings. Tickets $225. Visit growingchefs.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

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Signature Drink:
Last Word
Signature Drink:
Slow-cooked Halibut
Rating: ●●●½
Dinner & drinks for 2:
$150

Many restaurants trumpet their "focus" on local and organic fare these days — few exclusively dedicate themselves to it. Chow is one of the latter. Its menus (and wines) list organic and, in some cases, biodynamic offerings. The proof of quality, however, is in the Polderside (among others).

A first visit for lunch was mainly simple pleasures. Delicate, deep-fried, pulled pork croquettes ($9) came with chunky vegetable "ketsup" that reminded me of an Armenian tourlou, savoury and rich. The beet salad ($13) was a nice surprise, with orange pieces and tarragon oil blending nicely. Slow-cooked halibut ($19) was slightly over-cooked, although the lemon and ginger broth it came in was superb; clear, aromatic and heavily laden with fleshy fungi, sea asparagus, bok choy and meaty Dungeness crab dumplings. A grilled pork chop ($19) was also overdone. Its side of mushroom purée was lovely, however, as was the mushroom-carrot ragù.

Dinner included duck pâté ($16) with duck prosciutto and pickled vegetables. The pâté was nice, but the vegetables bland. Grilled strip loin ($30), however, was perfectly rare (by request). A rice crisp and caramel "chocolate bar" ($9) was a fun little dessert, with tasty banana ice cream.

On the web

- Read the full article online at *metronews.ca/Vancouver/comment.*
- Chew more on Anya's blog at *metronews.typepad.com/urbanfoodie.*

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Slow-cooked halibut in lemon-ginger broth with crab dumplings.

Yalumba Spotlights Grenache

As in most wine-growing regions around the world, Grenache is the leading varietal planted in Australia's Barossa Valley. Traditionally used to make a fortified wine, similar to port, Grenache is now often mixed with Shiraz. Yalumba Wine Company went one step further and produced a single varietal Grenache, combining a fruit-forward nose with a savoury herb palate. Pair with Greek and Middle Eastern dishes. $23.99 at BCLS.

Dining out

LAVISH DINNER
On Sept. 24, one of Chile's foremost organic/biodynamic wineries, Vinedos Organicos Emiliana, will be showcased at a lavish five-course dinner hosted by Cobre Restaurant (52 Powell St.). Enjoy scallop ceviche, duck confit, bison flat iron steak and more. Tickets $80, 604-669-2396 or cobrerestaurant.com.

ENLIGHTENED DINING
On Sept. 25, join author Jeffrey Alford at Wild Rice (117 West Pender St.) for a dinner that explores the culinary traditions of China's minority peoples. The $125 per person includes a six-course dinner, beverage pairings and a copy of Beyond the Great Wall. Call Barbara-Jo's Books to Cooks at 604-688-6755.

In brief

COULD B.C. be next? Chile's Santa Rita Winery is now using lighter glass bottles (a reduction of 15 per cent) for its '120' range of wines in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

MISSION HILL Family Estate, already named Canada's Winery of the Year, has now won the International Wine Challenge Trophy for the World's Top Icewine.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Medley's Restaurant

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Medley's Restaurant is a popular spot with a friendly, casual atmosphere. Favourite dishes at Medley's Restaurant include pizza, Medley's clubhouse sandwich and daily features from our award-winning chef. A Hearty Best-4-breakfast buffet is served everyday starting at 6:30AM. Don't forget that children under the age of 12 eat free when accompanied by an adult.

Medley's Bistro Bar

A quiet spot right off the lobby - perfect for a get together. The Bar features a wide selection of wine, beer and scotch, as well as lighter fare such as a classic Caesar salad and sweet and spicy chicken wings.

Featured Menu Items

Medley's Cobb Salad	$12.95
Yakisoba Noddle Stir-fry	$13.55
Linguine Marsala	$13.95
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unwined.ca

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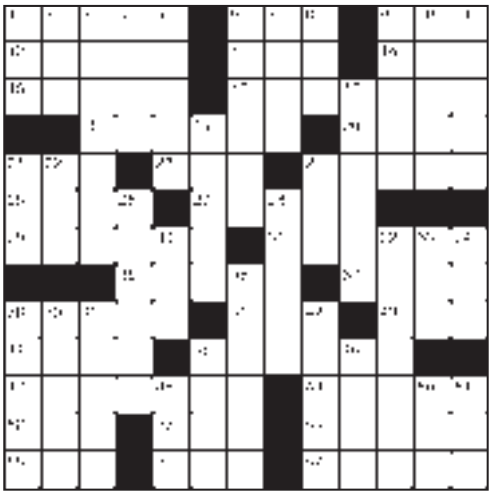
senhorrooster.com

Minogue's private performance in Dubai
Kylie Minogue is to be paid $1.7 million US for a private performance in Dubai. The singer has been asked to sing during a lavish four-day launch party to celebrate the opening of the Atlantis, The Palm resort. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Take Five



Crossword down

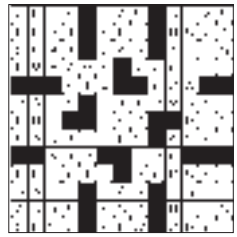
1 Possessed
2 "Hail, Caesar!"
3 Politician George
4 Prop for Ben Franklin
5 Feature of italics
6 Third-party collateral
7 Liver secretion
8 Chum
9 Bird skilled in mimicry
10 Grievance
11 More festive
17 Turn to bone
19 Refuges
21 Sprite
22 Links standard
24 Actress Thurman
26 Henson amphibian
28 Dogpatch lad
30 Speed
32 Prizefighter George
33 Robitaille of hockey
34 Historic period
36 Valencia, e.g.
38 Use fingerpaints
39 Miss USA adornment
40 Beginning
42 Deadly
45 Enthusiastic
46 Billion (Pref.)
48 Mal de —
50 List-ending abbr.
51 Sandra or Ruby

Find today's answer and play more games online at metronews.ca

Crossword across

1 Atlanta NBA team
6 "Chicago" lyricist
9 Gas stat
12 Use
13 Round Table address
14 Verily
15 Mississippi area
16 Screen star George
18 Girl named in "The Raven"
20 Rescue
21 Eco-friendly org.
23 Confucian principle
24 Leading man?
25 Deficiency
27 Mentor
29 Put on ice
31 Confound
35 Ex-NFLer Andre, nicknamed "Bad Moon"
37 Part of MYOB
38 Tread upon forcefully
41 Ump
43 Nipper's co.
44 Revealing fashion
45 Mechan-ic's place
47 Inventor George
49 On the clock
52 Exist
53 Early bird?
54 Type of quartz
55 Snitch
56 "Norma —"
57 Jousting weapon

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your friendliness will attract an impractical person. Don't let anyone interfere with a ridiculous plan. Doubts about challenges will create turmoil.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Revealing too much may ruin your chances. Don't forget a crucial step in a project. This would be a good time to make amends.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Friendship leads to transportation problems. Don't waste too much time on a silly errand. Be realistic about your blissful preoccupation.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your ability to read people is enhanced. A sudden temper tantrum will be obnoxious. An amazing action causes a secret rendezvous.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't be aloof when a friend says something critical. A discussion will be avoided due to a sports event. It's important to be the solution to a problem.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A needy person is reaching out after a break-up. A discussion will cause a big stink. An overreaction will create a tense situation.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A conclusion will come as a power struggle ends. Avoid involvement in a dependent relationship. The honesty of your friends will reassure you.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Rudeness will get a reaction. There'll be a happy ending to an exasperating meeting. A suspicious pattern begins to emerge.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Your openness beats down the barricades of distrust. Focus on a sense of order. A melodrama is caused by someone trying to pull a fast one.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone loves your personal demeanor. A confident manner can put you into a leadership role. Don't assume that you know everything.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A pleasant comment will lighten your mood. Someone will tell you who caused a predicament. Love grows after a discovery is made.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Someone in charge will have a broken heart. Your attraction will be an important and potent force. Information will be skilfully exchanged.

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Sudoku

	8		3	2	4		7	
2								9
		7				5		
8	4		5		2		1	6
				4				
7	1		9		3		2	8
		1				8		
9								4
	7		2	8	9		3	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

4	5	2	7	6	8	1	3	9
9	3	6	1	4	5	2	7	8
1	7	8	2	3	9	5	6	4
5	8	4	3	1	2	6	9	7
2	6	7	8	9	4	3	1	5
3	1	9	6	5	7	8	4	2
7	2	3	4	8	1	9	5	6
8	9	1	5	7	6	4	2	3
6	4	5	9	2	3	7	8	1

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min . . . . . Genius
13-17 min . . . . . Scholar
17-21 min . . . . . Smart
21-25 min . . . . . Not bad
25+ min . . . . Keep practising

Today's answer and play more games at metronews.ca

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny. 20°	Clear. Low 12°	Sunny. 19°/ 12°	Sunny. 20°/ 13°	Sunny. 20°/ 13°

Temperature
Normals
High: 19.2°
Low: 10.5°

Records
High: 22.8°/1945
Low: 5°/1949

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:30 p.m.
Moonset: 3:27 a.m.
Moonrise: 6:28 p.m.

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Campbell films homeless centre promo

Supermodel Naomi Campbell has reportedly filmed a promo video to raise awareness of a London drop-in centre for the homeless where she is carrying out community service. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Dunst 'learned a lot' in rehab

PEOPLE Kirsten Dunst says she's "learned a lot" after checking into rehab earlier this year for depression and is now in a different place in her life," People.com reports.

"Everyone goes through a hard time in their life," Dunst says in the October issue of Harper's Bazaar. "They just don't have to do it in front of tons of people and with our media the way it is. I did, and I'm lucky that I had the resources and the money to take care of myself. Now, I'm great."

Though she hesitates to go into details about her stint at Cirque Lodge, a rehabilitation center in Utah, Dunst says prior to going to rehab she was "enormously co-dependent."

"I wasn't taking care of myself emotionally. I wasn't expressing my anger," she says. "I was making nice all the time."

She even got words of wisdom from an old friend — actor Tom Cruise. The actress keeps a plastic-framed copy of L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology Code of Honor in her home, which was recently given to her as a gift from her former Interview with the Vampire costar.

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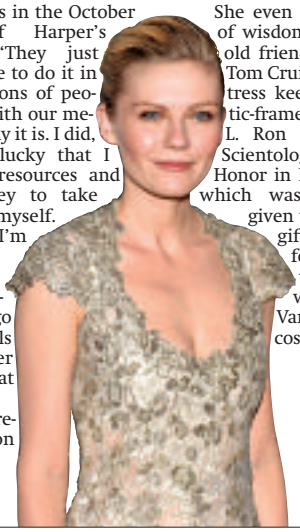


GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

McLachlan, hubby split

RELATIONSHIPS Sarah McLachlan is separating from her husband, Ashwin Sood, the singer tells Billboard.com.

"I haven't said anything about it because I've been terrified," she said. "But I figure ... there's no good time to say it, so I just said it."

McLachlan and Sood (the drummer in her band) have been married for 11 years and have two daughters, India Ann Sushil, 6, and Taja Summer, 14 months.

The Vancouver-based singer described the split as "pretty gross," but did not elaborate on the causes, People.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ellen upset celeb pals

PEOPLE Newlyweds Portia De Rossi and Ellen DeGeneres upset a host of celebrity pals by uninviting them to their summer nuptials, imdb.com reports.

DeGeneres has revealed the couple had originally planned to turn their big day into a star-studded affair, but the pair scaled back when word leaked about the ceremony.

The comedienne instructed wedding planner Mindy Weiss to alert friends the wedding would no longer be a big bash, and the couple instead wed at their home, surrounded only by family and close friends.

"We had 150, 200 people originally, we were gonna do a huge wedding and then at the last minute, we called her (Weiss) and said, 'Please call and uninvite everybody because we just can't do it; it's too stressful,'" DeGeneres says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mariah opposes tell-all

PEOPLE Mariah Carey wants to quash parts of an explosive tell-all being penned by her former record producer Damion "Damizza" Young, who says he'll bare details of the "intense four-year personal relationship" they shared and "worked diligently to disguise from the world's press," Page-Six.com reports.

Young says the singer's lawyer Sonya Guardo, who works with powerhouse celebrity attorney Allen Grubman, fired off a letter reminding him of a confidentiality agreement to steer clear of blabbing any sensitive information about Carey in his upcoming book, Guilty by Association. Guardo didn't get back to Page-Six.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Oprah tops list of generous celebs

CHARITY Oprah Winfrey tops a list of the 30 most generous celebrities, compiled by The Giving Back Fund and published in the Sept. 14 issue of Parade, usmagazine.com reports. The 54-year-old talk show host and media mogul gave out $50.2 million US last year to causes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Berry's ex Benet denies addiction

CONTROVERSY Eric Benet insists the sex addiction that ended his marriage to Halle Berry was all made up, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Benet admits he agreed to seek counselling for a problem he never had in a desperate bid to save his marriage to the actress.

"Going to that therapy, for me, was an attempt to save my marriage," he says. "If you've been unfaithful in a relationship, or your marriage, you're considered a sex addict now. I never really agreed with that philosophy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Keira sick of body criticism

PEOPLE Actress Keira Knightley has joked she wants to get pregnant so people won't think she is anorexic, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Knightley, 23, who is often criticized for her slim figure, says she believes she would get a break from her detractors if she had a baby.

"That's a good reason to have a kid. They won't say I'm anorexic any more. S**t, I've got to have a child," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

It's been a bad couple of months for the marriages of Canadian singers.

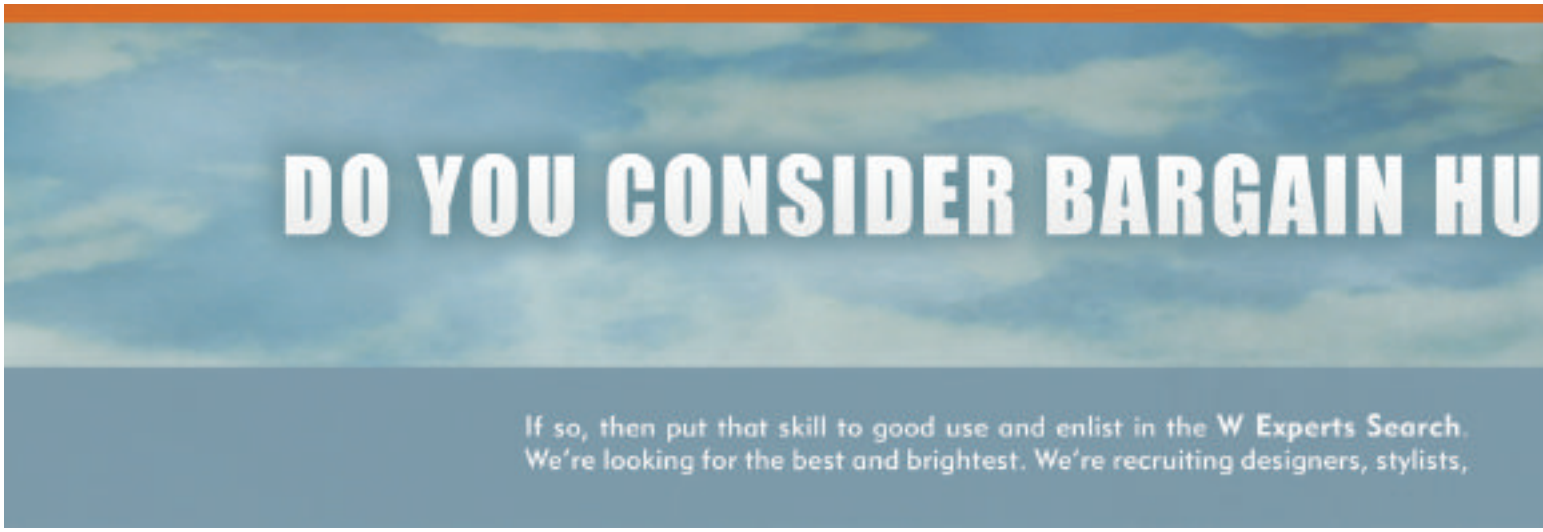
First **Shania Twain**'s marriage goes kaput, and now **Sarah McLachlan** is fumbling towards Splitsville with her drummer husband, **Ashwin Sood**. If I'm a marriage counselor, I'm on the phone with Celine Dion right now! Now, Sarah and Ashwin were married for 11 years, which translates to 10 and three quarters Canadian, but I have to question why anyone would want to be married to a band mate in the first place.

The Beatles knew better, and I believe that this is one of the main reasons why **Paul McCartney** never shacked up with **Ringo Starr**.

Another question this raises is, "Why a drummer?" Has Sarah never seen This is Spinal Tap before? It's a well-known fact that when drummers aren't choking on their own or other people's vomit, their heads are spontaneously combusting or exploding. On second thought, maybe in her present state of mind, Sarah wishes that would happen to him.

As with any bitter split involving musical celebrities, the important thing is that autobiographical tunes ensue.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA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Hoffman denies Penguin rumours

Philip Seymour Hoffman has denied rumours he will be starring as The Penguin in the next Batman film.
The actor said he had never even met Christopher Nolan, who directed the recent Batman film The Dark Knight. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Jamie touched by book

FAMILY New mom Jamie Lynn Spears brought her mother Lynne to tears after reading her new book Through The Storm, because she loved it, imdb.com reports.

The Spears family matriarch admits her eldest kids Britney and Bryan have yet to read her memoirs, but she's thrilled her youngest daughter likes what she has read.

"Jamie Lynn loved the book," Spears says. "I started to cry because I told her, 'I wanted so much for you to like it.' And she got up and kissed me on the cheek and said, 'Mama, thank you so much.'"

Spears admits that writing the book has also helped her mend her relationship with pop superstar Britney: "We are back to four or five phone calls a day."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Conrad adds more to resume

PEOPLE She's already a reality star and a fashion designer, but Lauren Conrad is adding another title to her crowded resume: Author, People.com reports.

Conrad, 22, has signed on to write a three-book series of young adult fiction for HarperCollins, the publisher tells People. The books – the first of which is scheduled to hit shelves in the summer of 2009 – will be loosely inspired by Conrad's own experience going from an ordinary teen to a reality TV star.

"It's definitely influenced by my own life," Conrad says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney set to appear in Vogue

PEOPLE Britney Spears' comeback is set to be topped with an appearance in fashion bible Vogue, Britain's The Sun reports.

The singer — who picked up three MTV Awards on Sunday — has posed for top photographer Patrick Demarchelier. His shoot will run in an upcoming issue.

Spears' return to form has been voted as the best ever in a new poll — beating Kylie Minogue.

"In February we were gripped by reports that she had been admitted to a psychiatric unit," a spokesman for Onepoll, who carried out the survey, said.

METRO

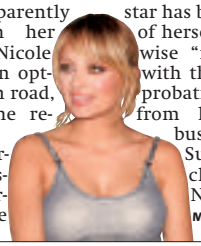
celebrity brief

Richie opting for the high road

PEOPLE Apparently star has been taking care learning from her of herself and is otherwise "in compliance" mistakes, Nicole Richie has been opting for the high road, with the terms of her probation stemming E! News Online reports. from her 2006 DUI bust, a Los Angeles

A judge determined Wednesday that the former Simple Life Superior Court clerk told E! News.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Aguilera's lavish requests

PEOPLE Christina Aguilera insisted on vanilla-scented candles and four black bath towels and the Jonas Brother requested room temperature apple juice as part of the their backstage riders at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, female-first.co.uk reports.

Aguilera also asked for a space heater and two bottles of Veuve Clicquot champagne as part of her pre and post-performance dressing room package.

The Jonases added eight Red Bull Sugar free beverages, plus six regular Red Bulls and 24 pieces of California sushi rolls as part of their list of requirements.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kiefer buys $8.2M home

REAL ESTATE Actor Kiefer Sutherland has purchased a new home in New York for $8.2 million US — millions less than its asking price, imdb.com reports.

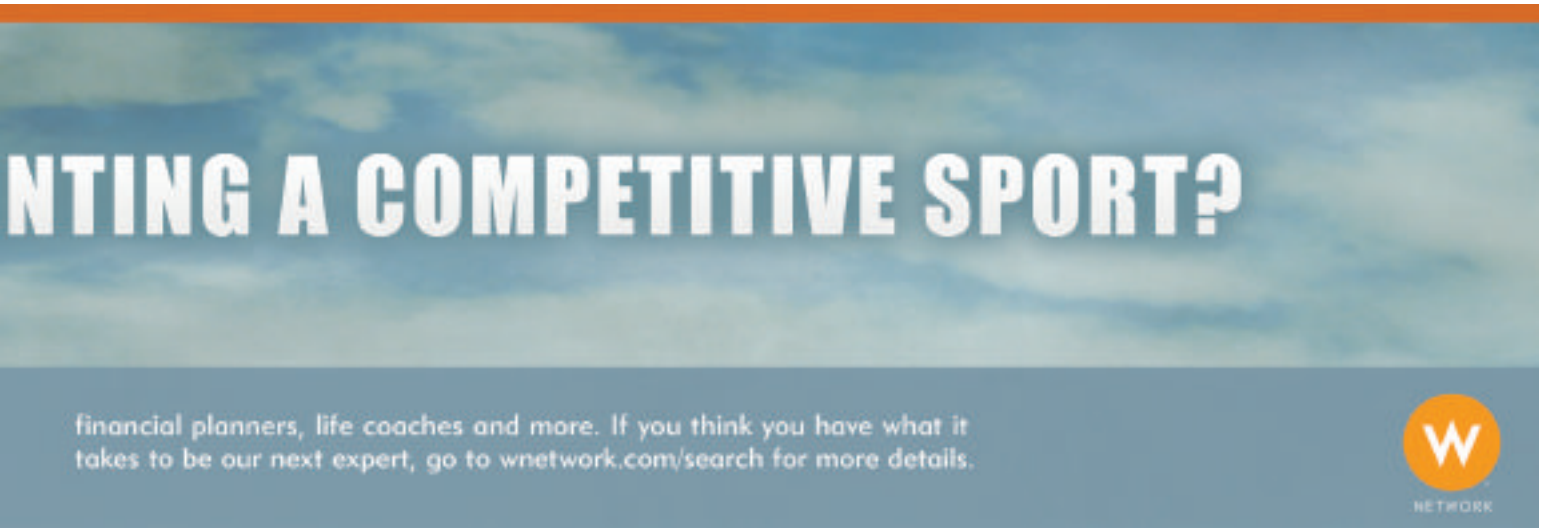
The 24 star will join a host of other celebrities who have homes in the city's star-studded West Village, with neighbours including actresses Sarah Jessica Parker and Liv Tyler, and supermodel Gisele Bundchen.

According to real-estate listings, the five-storey, 19th-century Greek Revival townhouse remains unrenovated but includes plans for five bedrooms, "open living and entertaining spaces and (an) elevator" within its 4,750 sq. feet.

The townhouse was reportedly purchased in 2006 for $5.3 million and put on the market last January at an original asking price of $12.99 million.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS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1588 West Broadway
1709 Lonsdale Ave.
2154 West 4th
2315 West 41st
Bentall Centre
Capilano Mall
Chinatown Plaza
Lynn Valley
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
Park Royal N.
Park Royal S.

OKANAGAN

CASTELGAR
635 Columbia Ave.

KAMLOOPS
Aberdeen Mall
Inside Real Canadian Superstore
Lansdowne Village
Sahali Centre Mall

KELOWNA
948 McCurdy Rd
Dilworth Shopping Centre
Orchard Park Shopping Centre

PENTICTON
Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
Pine Centre

QUESNEL
259 Reid St.

VERNON
4710 31st St. Unit 106
Village Green Mall

WILLIAMS LAKE
Boitanio Mall

VANCOUVER ISLAND

NANAIMO
Country Club Centre
Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
Bay Centre
Hillside Shopping Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Westshore Town Centre

Also available at these participating retailers:

CAMPBELL RIVER
Pure Wireless

COURTENAY
Pure Wireless

DUNCAN
Vi Cellular

MISSION
Valley Toys Ltd

WHISTLER
WSC Communications

booth the telephone booth

WIRELESSWAVE

Offer ends September 30, 2008. Available with compatible devices within Bell Mobility high speed mobile network coverage areas. Other monthly fees, i.e., e9-1-1 (75¢), system access (not a government fee) ($8.95), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a monthly voice plan with a min. Fun 15 bundle. Rebate applies on device before taxes in-store or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. You must keep the Fun bundle for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. (2) With new activation on a monthly voice plan. (3) With new activation on a monthly voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $45/mo. Samsung Instinct is a trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Double-flip is a trade-mark of Bell Canada. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Rumour is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc. Windows Live is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.